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celeb buzz pg 34

Dating, fame not best mix: Carrie

Better care urged for soldiers

AFGHANISTAN The federal government should provide better long-term care for soldiers wounded in Afghanistan and ought to recognize them with medals similar to the U.S. Purple Heart, says the head of a Senate committee. The committee on security and defence released an interim report yesterday examining the care given soldiers from the moment they are hit on the battlefield to rehabilitation back in Canada. The committee chair, Liberal Senator Colin Kenny, says more needs to be done for those with long-term rehabilitation issues, especially reservists.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports page 9

Jays offence comes alive against Tigers

Automotive page 13

Small car gets Smarter

ShareYourViews
torontoletters@metronews.ca

Olympics

Phelps swims into history

NICK LAHAM/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps flashes a smile after finishing the Men's 200m Butterfly final in first place at the Beijing Olympics yesterday. Phelps became the winningest Olympic athlete ever with his 10th career gold medal. More Olympics coverage, see p. 11 & 12

Frustration brewing over blast evacuation

The people who had the pink pieces of paper were pleased. The people who did not were not.

Most of the people evacuated Sunday from the Downsview neighbourhood near Sunrise Propane were permitted to return to their homes by Monday night. Passes distributed yesterday at Ancaster Public School allowed dozens more to bypass the police checkpoints on their streets.

Upon their returns, they checked for damage — several of them reported none or little — and delighted in simple pleasures: their own beds, their own bathrooms.

But the people who live in about 70 homes in the immediate vicinity of the Murray Road blast site were forced to wait further as their streets were cleared of asbestos. Worried their houses might be severely damaged, still unable to grab the money or medication they left behind in their haste, some expressed frustration with city officials, who provided no information about when they might be able to go back. "When Fire Services is able to give an update, they will," Mayor David Miller said.

As she handed her pink slip to a police officer in the mid-afternoon, Sandi Roher, who lives three houses from Murray on Regent, apologized to him for her hygiene. She had not showered in three days. "I'm so stinky, I can't even stand myself," she said.

Johny Gabrielli, meanwhile, stood at the corner of Regent and Garratt and stewed. "I'm frustrated. I want to see my home. I don't want to go spending thousands of dollars when I don't have to."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PG. 3

Affected areas

- Spalding Road, Plewes Road and the north side of Katherine Road west of Garratt Boulevard remained off-limits. Regent Road and the south side of Katherine were opened to residents who obtained passes.

Studies, work tickets to Canada

Undertaking a job beholden to a Canadian employer or enrolling for costly university studies could one day become the only tickets for immigration to Canada.

With yesterday's unveiling of a new category, the Canada Experience Class (CEC), critics say the days of the traditional open-door policy allowing immigrants to enter this country as permanent residents appear to be numbered.

"What is problematic is that this is part of a trend happening in other countries, where employers drive the immigration system and determine who are let into the country," said Myer Siemiatycki, chair of Ryerson University's immigration settlement graduate studies.

The CEC program was unveiled by Immigration Minister Diane Finley yesterday at the University of Waterloo.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

intake

- Although the program is scaled initially to admit 12,000 to 18,000 immigrants each year, Finley said that will increase to 25,000 — about 10 per cent of Canada's annual immigrant intake.

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Oshawa Centre
Pickering Town Centre
Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Square One
Toronto Eaton Centre
Vaughan Mills
Yorkdale Mall

Shooter targets teen sitting on porch
A 17-year-old boy was shot in the leg while sitting on the porch of his house in the city's west-end early Monday morning. The victim was outside his home at Ladybank Road near The Queensway and Islington Avenue around 2 a.m., when a male suspect approached him and fired a shot into his left leg, police say. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Creba trial publication ban sought

The Crown is asking a judge to impose a publication ban on the trial for the first of nine people charged in connection with the shooting death of Jane Creba. The Crown wants the ban on any evidence at the upcoming trial of the youth which deals with the conduct or character of the others accused — seven adults and another youth. If granted, the ban would stay in effect until trials for all nine are completed.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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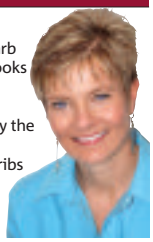
INDEX

Canada Pg 6
World Pg 5
Business Pg 8
Sports Pg 9
Beijing Games Pg 11
Automotive Pg 13
Travel Pg 19
Workology Pg 24
Entertainment Pg 27
Take Five Pg 33
Celebrity Buzz Pg 34

Tomorrow's Metro

Food



Metro's Barb Holland cooks up a great recipe to accompany the tasty barbecue ribs on your grill this summer.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Watch video reports on the aftermath of the Montreal police shooting that sparked a riot and a reunion between a baby beluga and its grandmother at the Vancouver Aquarium
Search for jobs using Metro's Workopolis search
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Lotteries

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These results are not official.

News in brief

MUGGING Police are searching for three teen males after a group of friends were mugged for a cellphone on Sunday night in Blue Haven Park. Police said the muggers threatened the group with a gun and a knife. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Minister calls for end to abuse

'Katelynn is delivering a message,' says reverend at slain girl's service

As hundreds of friends and relatives gathered in Parkdale yesterday to mourn Katelynn Sampson, a local minister called on the community to end the drug use and violence that led to the seven-year-old's tragic demise.

"Katelynn is delivering a message to us," Rev. Harry Klassen told the tearful crowd at Bonar-Parkdale Presbyterian Church. "Stop the violence, stop the drugs, stop the abuse of children and the weak."

Katelynn Sampson was found dead Aug. 3 in the an apartment she lived in with her foster parents, Donna Irving and Warren Johnson. The pair were friends of the girl's biological mother, Bernice Sampson, who had granted them custody last year as she battled a drug addiction. Irving, 29, and Johnson, 46, are charged with second-degree murder. Irving had a criminal record for drugs and violence.

Over a steady soundtrack of sobs and sniffles, friends read tributes to the little girl they lost, including a letter Bernice Sampson wrote her daughter, recited by a friend.

"You are safe, my little one, from harm's way ... This is not my final goodbye."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Custody hearing

- Transcripts of custody hearings show few questions were asked about Irving, and Ontario Court Justice Debra Pauseth acknowledged she had not read the paperwork on the case.

Zebra foal **Baby naming contest**

SAUL LORO/TORSTAR NEWS

The Toronto Zoo is searching for a name for its baby zebra. The endangered female zebra foal was born July 2 at the Toronto Zoo to mom Shani and dad Shaka. The zoo is taking African name suggestions at www.torontozoo.com until Sept. 2. The zoo will then hold a vote for their favourite.

Livent accountant points finger at Eckstein

TRIAL Although former Livent executive Gordon Eckstein claimed he was ordered by "the boys" — the top bosses — to cook the books, a former firm accountant says she never saw any direct evidence of this.

"If he said, that's what 'the boys' wanted, who it came from was Gord," defence lawyer Edward Greenspan suggested as he cross-examined Diane Winkfein yesterday.

"Yes," she replied.

Livent co-founders Garth Drabinsky and Myron Gottlieb have pleaded not guilty to fraud and forgery, denying they ordered staff to falsify the publicly traded Toronto-based company's quarterly results between 1993 and 1998. Eckstein, who was senior vice-president of finance and administration, has testified he would get approval for improper accounting manipulations from the two executives on trial plus executive vice-president Robert Topol, whose fraud charges were thrown out last summer for delays. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

337 propane filling sites peppered around city

SAFETY A total of 337 sites across the GTA house a propane filling tank — from large plants like the one that blew up Sunday to smaller ones for refilling cylinders for the backyard barbecue — meaning there's probably one in a neighbourhood near you.

So, in the aftermath of the fatal explosion at Sunrise Propane, a call like Mayor David Miller's to keep large propane facilities at least 1.6 kilometres from residential areas is easier said than done.

And even if we could do it, such a move might not make us much safer.

With so much consumer demand for propane, locating storage and handling farther afield raises the spectre of more transport by truck and rail, which also carry risks.

In 1997, thousands of people, many of them seniors, were evacuated from their Scarborough homes after a Sunrise tanker jacknifed on Highway 401.

"The 401 is already way over capacity, and you would increase the danger of having a fireball or a catastrophic collision on the highways," said professor Ken McBey, of York University's disaster and emergency management program.

"There's no real easy solution."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Unpaid tab

- Sean Ben-Moshe, the owner of First Choice Petroleum Inc., the now-inactive company that sued Sunrise Petroleum for an unpaid account and won $93,389.54 plus legal fees in 2002, says he is still waiting for payment six years later.

News in brief

SHOOTING One man died and another was injured in a shooting at a McCowan Road apartment buildings Sunday. Christopher Rowe-Reid, 20, died of multiple wounds in hospital Sunday afternoon Police said Rowe-Reid and a third suspect were shooters.

RULING Municipalities have no business making rules on the safety of propane facilities because the province does, Ontario's highest court ruled in 1995. City officials say the ruling blocked the city from doing more to prevent Sunday's explosions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Don't expect Emerson to seek re-election, say Tories
Foreign Affairs Minister David Emerson likely won't seek re-election, says a Conservative official. The former Liberal defected to the Tories in 2006, upsetting Liberal supporters in his Vancouver-Kingsway riding — making re-election difficult. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Beluga family reunited

Like a lot of new mothers, Qila the beluga whale didn't quite know how to care for her baby, and eventually know-it-all grandma Aurora took over. Concerned Vancouver Aquarium staff separated Qila and calf from Aurora for several weeks to break the family tension. All three were happily reunited Monday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police to release shooting results

MONTREAL Quebec investigators promised yesterday to publicly release the findings of their probe following the shooting death of an unarmed man at the hands of Montreal police.

They warned that only their conclusions will be released, likely not before October, risking further tensions with a community that erupted in violence after the shooting of 18-year-old Freddy Villanueva.

Community leaders say the only way to ease tensions between police and the neighbourhood's ethnic population is to hold a public inquiry.

Montreal officers have in the past been accused of racial profiling in the neighbourhood.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OnlineVideos
metronews.ca

Ontario gets A for effort

ENERGY British Columbia and Manitoba scored highest in a report card released yesterday grading federal, provincial and territorial governments on energy efficiency.

The Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance, the group that compiles the ratings, weighs parameters, including energy plans, codes and standards, and spending on efficiency initiatives.

It says the two western provinces received A-plus grades because they have the most stringent policies on energy efficiency.

Ontario and Quebec scored A's for their efforts.

Nunavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, Alberta, and Prince Edward Island were in the bottom four.

"We need to see more participation from some of the other provinces."
Ken Elsey

Alliance president Ken Elsey says the top four provinces are driving energy efficiency across the country, adding, "We need to see more participation from some of the other provinces."

Manitoba's government set energy-efficiency requirements for new home furnaces and government-funded buildings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

School funding, labour in limbo

EDUCATION Ontario school boards say they face a labour "limbo" this fall after Education Minister Kathleen Wynne refused yesterday to pledge funding that would have brought elementary teachers back to the bargaining table.

The Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario says the extra elementary school funding will match what they claim Queen's Park gives each high school student. The funding is a condition for returning to labour talks with the province.

"We did not hear the commitment to eliminate that funding gap, and that's what we were waiting for," said federation president David Clegg. "We will not sign a long-term agreement that does not eliminate that gap."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

OTTAWA A Conservative official says his party frowned on him appearing before a parliamentary committee investigating illegal Tory election spending — and even offered him talking points when he insisted on showing up. Douglas Lowry's testimony fed into allegations the Conservatives are obstructing the ethics committee's investigation into the matter, which the Tories deny.

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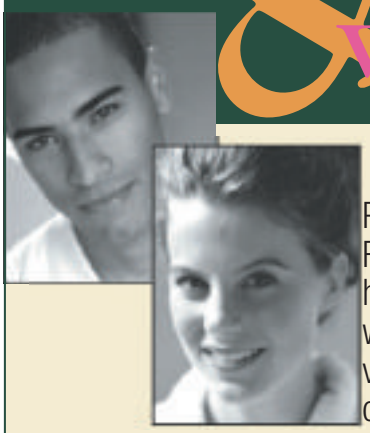

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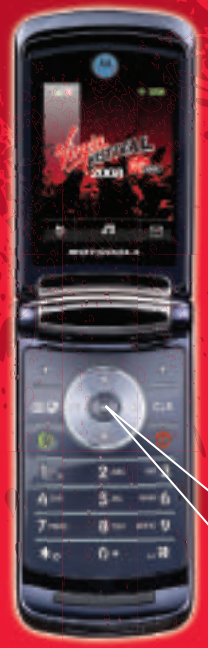

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155 - 720 King St. W
464 Danforth Ave.
199 Bay St. (Commerce Court)
130 King St. W
363 Front St. W (City Place)
5015 Yonge St.
5 - 500 Church St.
3 - 2610 Weston Rd.
1006 St. Clair Ave. W
25 Davenport Rd.

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10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

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Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
Woodchester Plaza
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G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
1A - 1370 Dundas St. E
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.

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RioCan Burloak
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18 - 2501 Third Line
D3 - 2335 Trafalgar Rd.
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Chinese bus accident kills 24

China's Xinhua news agency says 24 people were killed in a highway bus accident yesterday in the country's Xinjiang region. Most of the dead were students who were on their way to take health exams necessary for admission to high schools. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

John Lennon's killer denied parole

John Lennon's killer, Mark David Chapman, 53, was denied parole for a fifth time yesterday by a board that said he remains a threat to the public. He will remain in New York's Attica correctional facility for at least two more years for gunning down the former Beatle nearly three decades ago on a Manhattan sidewalk. He has been in prison for 27 years since pleading guilty to the murder, which he has said he committed to gain attention. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia halts action

The United States and its allies were considering ways of punishing Moscow yesterday for its invasion of pro-Western Georgia, including cancelling a joint NATO-Russia military exercise and possibly expelling it from the influential Group of Eight.

But with little leverage in the face of an emboldened Moscow, Washington and its friends have been forced to face the uncomfortable reality that their options are limited to mainly symbolic measures, such as boycotting Russian-hosted meetings and events, that may have little or no long-term impact on Russia's behaviour, White House officials said.

With the situation on the ground still unclear after Russian President Dmitri Medvedev yesterday ordered a halt to military action in Georgia, U.S. officials were focused primarily on confirming a ceasefire and attending to Georgia's urgent humanitarian needs following five days of fierce fighting.

In Ottawa, International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda announced that Canada will provide up to $1 million to assist victims of the conflict. The aid includes $500,000 in response to an appeal by the Red Cross. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SERGEI GRITS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man looks at the burnt shell of a Georgian military vehicle outside Gori, northwest of the Georgian capital Tbilisi.

Consumers loath to give up vices despite recession

SALES As a global recession looms, what better way to cope than to eat, drink and be merry?

Even as consumers face soaring energy costs, rising food prices and higher mortgages or rent, it seems clear they're not prepared to forgo many of life's little treats. Just ask alcohol, cigarette and candy makers, all of whom are reporting healthy sales.

This is a trend that is reflected in strong financial reports this season from some of the biggest so-called "sin stocks," even as banks and many retailers report sliding income.

Sin stocks are usually a safe bet in hard times. While shares in some of those companies have fallen along with stock exchanges this year, many are still seeing strong revenues and sales. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence in Indian Kashmir kills 13

PROTEST Indian forces shot and killed at least 13 Muslim protesters yesterday as tens of thousands of people defied a blanket curfew in Indian Kashmir, the bloodiest day in nearly two months of unrest that has rocked the region.

Police and protesters battled each other through clouds of bullets, tear gas and rocks, while in New Delhi, politicians again failed to find a solution to the crisis that threatens to shred the last tenuous threads binding the predominantly Muslim region of Kashmir to Hindu-majority India. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

DEFICIT The U.S. federal budget deficit soared in July, pushed higher by economic stimulus payments and $15 billion in outlays to protect depositors at failed banks. The U.S. Treasury Department reported that the deficit for July totalled $102.8 billion, nearly triple the $36.4 billion deficit recorded in July 2007. The deficit outstripped the $97-billion gap Wall Street economists had expected.

BABY NAMES Swedish authorities say parents can now name their newborns Budweiser or Metallica if they so wish. For decades, Swedish tax authorities had banned parents from naming their children after fast-food chains, rock bands or their favourite brand of beer. But tax authority spokesman Lars Tegenfeldt says the guidelines have been relaxed. Still, authorities are drawing the line at naming children after swear words. And forget about naming your child God, Allah or Devil. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Glitch at refinery causes gas shortages for Petro-Canada

Petro-Canada said of some of its stations in Alberta and the B.C. Interior are running out of gasoline because of problems at its Edmonton refinery, where the catalytic cracking unit had to be shut down last week. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Rona shrinks expansion plans

RETAIL Canadian-owned home improvement retailer Rona Inc. says it has cut expansion plans by 20 per cent for the rest of the year, and predicts sagging consumer confidence will remain a drag on the industry well into next year.

Rona's profit fell 7 per cent in the spring quarter, while sales at stores open more than a year, considered a benchmark of retail performance, slipped 4.4 per cent. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

TOBACCO Rothmans Inc. booked a massive $354.4 million loss in its latest quarter after the tobacco producer took a big charge for the costs of settling smuggling-related criminal charges with federal tax authorities.

RETAIL Leon's Furniture Ltd. had a comfortable second quarter, as its profit rose 17 per cent compared to last year and sales increased to $224.7 million. But it added that it's worried about an economic slowdown. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Power industry learns from past mistakes

It was the largest blackout in North American history, plunging more than 50 million people across Ontario and the northeastern United States into darkness.

Five years on, officials who oversee the continent's electrical grid say the chances of such a catastrophic failure happening today are much slimmer — though they'll never say never.

Mandatory standards, zero-tolerance enforcement and new grid-monitoring technology have strengthened the system, say those in the power industry. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tigers put Sheffield on waivers, reports say

The Detroit Tigers have placed disgruntled slugger Gary Sheffield on waivers, ESPN.com is reporting. Other teams would have until tomorrow afternoon to place a claim on Sheffield, who has one year remaining on his contract at $14 million beyond this season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Indians send Byrd flying to Boston

The Boston Red Sox acquired pitcher Paul Byrd, left, from Cleveland on Tuesday, hoping to boost a rotation hurt by an injury to Tim Wakefield and the struggles of Clay Buchholz. The Red Sox will send either a player to be named or cash to the Indians. The 37-year-old Byrd is 7-10 with a 4.53 ERA this season. But he has won all four of his starts since the all-star break with a 1.24 ERA.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Jays topple Tigers

Blue Jays 6 Tigers 4

The Blue Jays now-you-see-it, now-you-don't offence obviously arranged to meet back up with the club in Motown.

That might explain the sudden appearance of clutch hits and ample runs this week. On Monday, the bats buried Detroit early. Last night, they left it late.

After being shut down by Tigers starter Zach Miner for most of the night and giving up a big inning to the Tigers in the sixth, Toronto went to work.

A two-out, two-run double capped a four-run seventh inning, as the Jays turned a 4-1 deficit into a 5-4 advantage, then held on for a 6-4 win. The Tigers bullpen supplied plenty of drama all evening, liberally sprinkled with comedy.

DUANE BURLESON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays' Alex Rios beats the tag from Detroit Tigers second baseman Placido Polanco to steal second base in the first inning last night's game. The Jays beat the Tigers 6-4.

Freddy Dolsi's hard tag to the face of Alex Rios momentarily threatened to light off a ruckus at home plate. Rios, to his credit, was more concerned about the fact that he'd been incorrectly called out.

Toronto padded its lead in the final frame, allowed B.J. Ryan to shut the door on the tentative Tigers hitters. The win goes to A.J. Burnett (15-9), who was overwhelming for five innings and porous for one.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canada overcomes Swiss at Under-18 tourney

HOCKEY It was the kind of situation where a young hockey team could crack.

Canada was thoroughly outplaying Switzerland in its opening game of the Memorial of Ivan Hlinka tournament yesterday, but found itself with only a 3-2 lead after the Swiss scored early in the third period.

"You feel like you should have a bit of a lead at that point," said Canadian coach Bill Peters. "We dominated the second period territorially and on the shot clock, but we gave up a goal the first shift of the third."

Instead of panicking, his team tightened up and scored the next two goals to secure a 5-3 victory.

A loss probably would have brought an early end to Canada's gold-medal hopes at an event featuring the best players under the age of 18 in the world.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Islanders name AHL standout as new bench boss

The New York Islanders hired Scott Gordon, the AHL coach of the year, last night to replace dismissed head coach Ted Nolan. The 45-year-old Gordon guided the Providence Bruins to the AHL's best record last season. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Wie set to take on critics in Ottawa

Michelle Wie has endured plenty of criticism for her play this season, some of it from her fellow golfers in the LPGA Tour ranks.

Yesterday, as the 18-year-old sensation prepared to tee it up this week at the CN Canadian Women's Open, she shot back at the growing number of those who've offered their unsolicited career "advice."

"Everyone has their own opinion of what I should do, but I think that it's my life," Wie said after a practice round for the $2.25-million US event at the Ottawa Hunt and Golf Club, the only Canadian stop on this year's LPGA Tour.

"I know there might be wrong decisions that I make and there might be right decisions that I make, but they're decisions that I make for myself."

The Honolulu native is playing in Ottawa this week on a sponsor's exemption, the last of the six she's allowed on the tour this season after failing to secure full-time status previously.

Wie has been particularly battered in recent weeks for her willingness to accept invitations to events on the PGA Tour while her chance of nailing down a spot on her own circuit for next year slips away.

After Wie withdrew from qualifying for the most recent LPGA event, the Women's British Open two weeks ago, in order to play in the PGA's Legends Reno-Tahoe Open, Swedish veteran Annika Sorenstam was particularly critical of her.

"I really don't know why Michelle continues to do this," Sorenstam told reporters at the British Open. "We have a major this week and, if you can't qualify for a major, I don't see any reason why you should play with the men. We all have different agendas in life." THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAX MORSE/GETTY IMAGES

Michelle Wie will play in the CN Canadian Women's Open in Ottawa starting tomorrow.

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	71	46	.607	—
Boston	68	51	.571	4
N.Y. Yankees	63	56	.529	9
Toronto	61	59	.508	11½
Baltimore	56	62	.475	15½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Minnesota	66	52	.559	—
Chicago Sox	66	52	.559	—
Detroit	58	60	.492	8½
Cleveland	54	64	.458	12
Kansas City	54	65	.454	12½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	74	43	.632	—
Texas	61	58	.513	14
Oakland	54	63	.462	20
Seattle	45	73	.381	29½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	64	54	.542	—
N.Y. Mets	63	56	.529	1½
Florida	62	57	.521	2½
Atlanta	55	63	.466	9
Washington	44	76	.367	21

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	71	47	.602	—
Milwaukee	68	51	.571	3½
St. Louis	66	55	.545	6½
Houston	59	59	.500	12
Pittsburgh	54	65	.454	17½
Cincinnati	53	67	.442	19

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	60	58	.508	—
L.A. Dodgers	59	59	.500	1
Colorado	53	67	.442	8
San Francisco	50	67	.427	9½
San Diego	46	72	.390	14

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Cleveland 7 Baltimore 5
Toronto 6 Detroit 4
Chicago White Sox 9 Kansas City 0
Texas at Boston
N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota
Tampa Bay at Oakland
Seattle at L.A. Angels

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati 5 Pittsburgh 1
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta (ppd)
N.Y. Mets 4 Washington 3
St. Louis at Florida
San Francisco at Houston
Arizona at Colorado
Milwaukee at San Diego
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers

TODAY'S GAMES

AMERICAN LEAGUE

N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, 1:10
Texas at Boston, 7:05
Toronto at Detroit, 7:05
Baltimore at Cleveland, 7:05
Kansas City at Chicago Sox, 8:11
Tampa Bay at Oakland, 10:05
Seattle at L.A. Angels, 10:05

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 7:05
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta, 7:10
N.Y. Mets at Washington, 7:10
St. Louis at Florida, 7:10
San Francisco at Houston, 8:05
Arizona at Colorado, 9:05
Milwaukee at San Diego, 10:05
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	4	3	0	8
TORONTO	**3**	**4**	**0**	**6**
Hamilton	2	5	0	4
Winnipeg	1	6	0	2

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	6	1	0	12
Edmonton	4	3	0	8
Calgary	4	3	0	8
B.C.	4	3	0	8

WEEK 8

TOMORROW'S GAME

Hamilton at Winnipeg, 8

FRIDAY'S GAME

Montreal at Toronto, 7:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:

SUNDAY'S GAME

TORONTO at New York, 5

Sports in brief

TENNIS Sixth-seeded Canadian Aleksandra Wozniak rode a straight-set win yesterday into the second round of the Cincinnati Women's Open. Wozniak, who won the Tier II Stanford tournament in July, cruised past Japan's Aiko Nakamura 6-3, 6-2.

NFL The Miami Dolphins cut kicker Jay Feely yesterday, one season after he set the team's single-season record for field-goal percentage. Feely's release clears the way for undrafted rookie Dan Carpenter to take over as the starting job.

NBA The Philadelphia 76ers and restricted free agent Andre Iguodala have agreed to a six-year, $80 million contract, league sources tell ESPN.com. The swingman has improved his scoring average in each of his first four seasons.

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Water polo
Canada lost 12-0 to Montenegro yesterday in Beijing and fell to 0-2 in the preliminary round. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beijing Games

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Close calls for Canada

Kayaker Ford, weightlifter Girard finish just off podiums in Beijing

Even at 41 and with a fifth Olympic appearance now in the books, white-water kayaker David Ford couldn't bring himself to utter the R word.

Sure, Ford's the oldest guy in his sport at age 41. The average age of the medal winners in Beijing yesterday in the men's K-1 slalom event was just under 25 years.

And after finishing sixth in the event, Ford certainly didn't sound like someone who's going to be retiring anytime soon. In fact, don't be surprised if you see the former world champion coming back for one more crack at an Olympic medal in four years in London.

"It's not unrealistic to think I'm capable of doing another one," said the Edmonton native, whose best Olympic result is a fourth-place finish in Athens in 2004. "We've already kind of determined that. There's no reason that in four years I'll be any less fit or strong as I am now."

Ford's strong showing got Canada — which is still without a medal in Beijing — closer to the podium, but not as tantalizingly close as Christine Girard.

Girard, the 23-year-old weightlifter from Rouyn-Noranda, Que., had equalled a personal best and was in position to grab a bronze medal in the women's 63-kilogram division.

But everything was out of her control, hanging on the bar, along with 135 kilograms, as North Korea's Hyon Suk Pak attempted her third and final lift of a load that represented more than twice her body weight. It was simple: clean and jerk the required amount and Pak would win the gold medal, bumping the Canadian to fourth place. Fail and Pak would be out of the medals and Canada, thanks to this confident daughter of a weightlifting family, would finally be in.

"I think it was more stressful than when I was doing my lifts," said Girard, who watched on television in the warm-up room and saw Pak struggle and wobble, but successfully hoist the load, winning herself a gold medal and knocking the Canadian off the podium.

ADAM PRETTY/GETTY IMAGES

David Ford of Edmonton races during the final of the men's K-1 slalom event yesterday at the Beijing Olympics.

PAUL GILHAM/GETTY IMAGES

Christine Girard of Rouyn-Noranda, Que., hoists a heavy load yesterday en route to a fourth-place finish in the womens 63-kilogram weightlifting competition.

Hayden fails to reach final

SWIMMING Canada's Brent Hayden finished sixth in his men's 100-metre freestyle semifinal heat early this morning in Beijing and failed to qualify for the final.

The native of Mission, B.C., was the defending world champion.

Australia's Eamon Sullivan broke the world record in a time of 47.05, just minutes after France's Alain Bernard had set a new mark of 47.20.

Canadian women set to face U.S.

SOCCER Canada is through to the quarter-finals in the team's Olympic women's soccer debut, despite a 2-1 loss to Sweden yesterday in its final preliminary-round game.

Lotta Schelin scored both goals for Sweden, while Melissa Tancredi scored Canada's only goal on a diving header.

Canada must now face the top-ranked Americans in Friday's quarter-finals.

Three wins for Williams sisters

TENNIS The Williams sisters won both in singles and doubles yesterday, and the toughest match was the one they played together.

Venus and Serena rallied in first-round doubles to beat Iveta Benesova and Nicole Vaidisova of the Czech Republic 4-6, 7-5, 6-1. Earlier, the Williamses won second-round singles matches. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Ceremony
A young Chinese girl was not good-looking enough for the Olympics opening ceremony, so another little girl — Lin Miaoke, left — lip-synched Ode to the Motherland, a ceremony official said. The real singer was seven-year-old Yang Peiyi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beijing Games

Enjoy softball event while it lasts

Canada off to strong start in sport set to be dropped from future summer Games

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

So much has been so conspicuously absent at the Beijing Olympics — a Canadian medal, clean air and Brian Williams, for starters — that it's been extraordinarily difficult to muster up excessive enthusiasm so far.

Unless you dig Michael Phelps. Or smog. Or unless you live in countries such as Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan — all of which, unlike Canada, have collected medals, and all of which I truthfully didn't know existed on this planet until this week.

Me? I prefer traditional team sports and found myself entertained while watching the Canadian women's softball team defeat Chinese-Taipei 6-1 in its Olympic opener.

My conclusion: This is a formidable team, laden with capable hitters and talented pitchers. The pitchers include left-hander Lauren Bay-Regula, sister of Boston Red Sox star Jason Bay, and Danielle Lawrie, sister of the Milwaukee Brewers' top draft pick in June, Brett Lawrie.

This Canadian team has 11 first-rate newcomers, plays exciting ball and has a genuine shot at a medal. It might even give the United States — perennial kingpins (queenpins?) in women's softball — a run.

What a future Canada has at the Olympics in women's softball. That is, if the Olympics' future included women's softball. These, though, are the final innings for women's softball at the Games because, believe it or not, the nitwits in charge have chosen to dump the sport.

In 2005, the IOC — which has made incompetence a bad habit — deemed it necessary to reduce the number of sports at the summer Olympics by two and chose softball and baseball. They are the first sports dropped since polo in 1936.

I understand the need to eliminate baseball. MLB has refused to halt its season for the Olympics, instead staging its own event — the World Baseball Classic — to profit from an event similar to tournaments basketball and ice hockey stage at the Olympics. That and steroid issues surrounding stars in MLB gave the American pastime a black eye.

But women's softball? More than 130 countries are members of the International Softball Federation, and the sport has never been more competitive, with China, Korea, Australia, Japan and Canada threatening U.S. supremacy.

Canada intends to go down swinging.

"This is by far the best team we've had since I've been around," said Bay-Regula, a 27-year-old British Columbian who's in her second Olympics. "We have a legitimate shot at the podium."

The final gold-medal game in Olympic softball history, by the way, will be played Aug. 21. What a shame.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Still hope for softball?

- Women's softball is out for the London Olympics in 2012 and is appealing to return for the 2016 Olympics in Tokyo, Madrid, Chicago or Rio de Janiero. But generally perceived as stronger candidates for 2016 inclusion are golf, rugby, karate, squash and roller sports.

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- September 6, 2008: Last day adult tickets are sold at TTC Collector Booths

*Exchanges of 50 or more adult tickets must be done at the MDP Office – 1900 Yonge St. Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm

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Dream Team dominates open court against Angola

BASKETBALL LeBron James dominated the game with his size and strength on both ends, and Dwyane Wade scored 19 points to give the United States a 97-76 victory over Angola yesterday at the Olympics.

Wade

Dwight Howard added 14 points and James finished with 12 for the Americans, who had another rough night from three-point range but don't appear to be stoppable in the open court.

Wade was perfect from the field in Beijing until missing in the third quarter.

"I thought we played with really good energy in spurts and played some really terrific basketball," United States coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "Our goal wasn't to win by a certain margin. It was to really work hard and keep up our pressure and then once that was done, we just worked on a few other things."

Earlier, Pau Gasol scored 29 points to lead world champion Spain over Yao Ming and host China 85-75 in overtime.

Spain, which remains unbeaten in Group B, next faces Germany tomorrow.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Medal count

Rank	Nation				Total
#1	U.S.	7	7	8	22
#2	China	13	3	4	20
#3	South Korea	5	6	1	12
#4	Australia	3	2	5	10
#5	Italy	3	4	2	9
#6	Russia	2	4	3	9
#7	France	0	7	2	9
#8	North Korea	1	2	4	7
#9	Germany	4	1	1	6
#10	Japan	3	1	2	6
#11	Britain	2	1	3	6
#12	Netherlands	1	1	2	4
#13	Azerbaijan	1	2	0	3
#14	Brazil	0	0	3	3
#15	Czech Rep.	2	0	0	2
#16	Slovakia	1	1	0	2
#17	Finland	1	0	1	2
#18	Romania	1	0	1	2
#19	Spain	1	0	1	2
#20	Zimbabwe	0	2	0	2
	Canada	0	0	0	0

(Count at the end of Day 4)

Automotive

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Smart Fortwo grows up

Cutting-edge subcompact sheds its cute, quirky image

BRADLEY HORN
for Metro Canada

Since the Smart Fortwo first came to Canada in 2004, some 12,400 owners have been drawn in by its low sticker price, planted firmly in Chevy Aveo, Hyundai Accent and Kia Rio country.

Maybe it's because, despite it meagre purchase price, those owners are wise in the way of motoring. Maybe it's that European panache, its Mercedes-Benz parentage or the cutting-edge engineering that goes into building a safe and practical 2.7-metre urban people mover.

Whatever the reason, Canadians found this tiny runabout's 'smartness' quite appealing.

Even so, the arrival of a second-generation Smart for 2008 brings some unexpected maturation. All of a sudden the 'cute' little Fortwo has become a serious, viable vehicle and less of an automotive novelty.

Conceptually, the formula remains intact. The Tridion Safety Cell still forms the basis of the car — basically a high-tech, high-strength steel body structure that protects its occupants in a collision.

Though the length has increased by 19 cm (for improved impact absorption), the new Fortwo is still the shortest, most compact car in the world.

Smart's view that the '08 Fortwo's interior is a "bit more mature" is modest to say the least. That quirky 'wave' design of the first generation car is gone, thankfully, and replaced by a handsome, straightforward dash that dials up material quality quite noticeably. Highlights include a bit more legroom, more travel for fore-aft seat adjustment, optional leather seating and a panoramic roof on high-end models.

The Smart Fortwo's meagre price, European panache and safety features make it attractive for customers.

2008 Smart Fortwo Coupe

Type: Subcompact 2-pass. coupe RWD
Price: $14,990 - $$18,250
Engine: 1.0L L3 DOHC
HP: 70 @ 5,800 rpm
Torque: 68 @ 4,500 rpm

Highlights

- New gas engine replaces former turbodiesel
- More mature styling inside and out
- Improved safety and packaging
- Miserly fuel consumption

That quirky 'wave' design of the first generation car is gone, thankfully, and replaced by a handsome, straightforward dash that dials up material quality quite noticeably.

As before, the ignition is on the centre console and a clock and rev counter are optional.

Luggage space behind the seats has grown too, to a respectable 340 litres — and the passenger seat still folds flat.

Luggage space behind the seats has grown too, to a respectable 340 litres.

Like its predecessor, the Fortwo's engine is rear-mounted. However, in the most visible change from the Gen One model, Canadian Smarts are now powered by an all-new 1.0-litre, three-cylinder gasoline engine instead of a turbodiesel.

On paper, its seemingly modest 70 horsepower output doesn't reflect the real-world pep the car now has thanks to its low, low curb weight. It'll even hit 140 km/h should the need arise.

Just as appealing, the gas engine is considerably less costly to produce per car than the turbodiesel, contributing to a lowered price and simplified line-up. The Pure, Pulse and Passion trim levels of old have been changed to just Pure ($14,990) and Passion ($18,250) for the coupe body style and Passion only ($21,250) for the convertible. That's a saving of $1,400 to $1,700 compared to the '07 models.

A semi-automatic five-speed transmission (down from six) is also new for '08 and helps get rid of the "shift lag" evidenced in the previous model.

Suspension revisions also help this new 'fine-tuned' Fortwo to shake its plucky cuteness image and move it closer to that of a serious automobile that suits the day-to-day needs of most urban motorists.

Car keys to great romance

A well maintained car could be the key to a revved-up love-life, after research from Kwik-Fit, one of the largest auto parts, repair and replacement specialists in the world, found that 14 million Brits say they can tell much about a prospective partner from the state of their vehicle.

Interestingly, females are slightly more likely to judge a partner by their car — with 44 per cent compared to 40 per cent of men.

The findings also reveal that a staggering three quarters of a million women have even dated someone just because they liked his car. And a further 250,000 turned down a date with a guy they liked, because they didn't rate his car.

But perhaps more extreme is the 330,000 Brits that claim to have stayed in a relationship just because they liked driving their partner's car, or the 230,000 that went as far as dumping their other half because their automobile didn't meet their high standards.

While many people strive for a toned look to attract the opposite sex, it seems this can often count for little if their car is unreliable and has filthy paintwork, an oil leak and bald tires.

So, making a date for some routine maintenance will not only keep you and your loved ones safe on the road, but may also cost less than a new outfit or gym membership and still help you attract the opposite sex too!

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Automotive in brief

OIL CHANGE According to the London Sun, a rich Middle Eastern magnate believed to be a Sheikh recently flew his brand new Lamborghini Murciélago LP640 on a 10,500 km round trip from Qatar to London just for an oil change. The $380,000 supercar was taken to a Lamborghini specialist in London for servicing, adding $7,000 to the estimated $40,000 cost of the flight.

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The Suzuki SX4 in its sedan form looks good with a lowered stance and a solid, planted look.

Suzuki's solid sedan

SX4 impressive despite being revamped for N. America

B. MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

Small hatchbacks never sell in great numbers in North America, partly because of lingering memories of the '70s econo-junk foisted on North American buyers and partly because we aren't content with cars the rest of the world gets.

So carmakers bring over special 'versions' of their popular overseas models, like the Suzuki SX4 Hatchback — with the hatch replaced by a trunk. Often that means the performance of a compact car, wallflower looks and the functionality of a damp tissue.

But Suzuki's SX4 is different. First, in sedan form it looks good, with a lowered stance and a solid, planted look. Its trunk space, at 15.5 cu-ft, is admirable, about the same as a BMW 3 Series coupe or Nissan Maxima — both much larger vehicles.

Also, the seating position is more upright than other competitors in its market class, contributing to excellent forward visibility. That attribute is important in town traffic and, combined with quick steering and a tallish body profile, makes the car fun on often hectic city streets.

Power-wise, the SX4 is well endowed for the price: A 2.0-litre, four-cylinder engine pumps out 143 horsepower. Federal fuel ratings say you should see around 9.2 L/100km in city driving and consume 6.5 L/100km during highway mileage. For drivers who enjoy shifting, the standard five-speed manual transmission helps get the most from this fairly peppy engine.

Suzuki has also equipped the SX4 sedan with a long list of standard features, including air conditioning, ABS brakes, tilt steering, power mirrors and windows, and six airbags. It's important to note that since Suzuki doesn't have the brand recognition of, say, Toyota, they've got to find compelling reasons to have people visit dealer showrooms. An attractive car and a long list of features is a good start.

Out of the city, the sedan is easy to live with, its large dash area and airy cabin giving its occupants a sense it's a larger car. That makes the SX4 suitable for a longer commute, where its dimensions and added features help dispel cabin fever.

Pricewise, the sedan starts at $17,195, with a Sport model ringing in at a reasonable $18,995. The Sport adds a few more luxuries, like alloy wheels, body kit, and fog lamps — along with an upgraded stereo. Oh, and if you prefer to go with the optional four-speed automatic transmission rather than the standard five-speed manual, add $1,100 to the price.

2008 Suzuki SX4

Type: Compact 5-pass. sedan FWD
Price: $17,195 - $18,995
Engine: 2.0 L4 DOHC
HP: 143 @ 5,800 rpm
Torque: 136 @ 3,500 rpm

Highlights

- Good looks for its size
- Lots of standard equipment
- Fine forward visibility
- Useful trunk

The SX4's large dash area and airy cabin give its occupants a sense that it's a larger car.

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Automotive in brief

CAR CAM Honda has become the world's first manufacturer to provide built-in 'car cameras' on their domestic-market models, providing indisputable evidence on the cause of car accidents. The iPod-size recorder unit detects the speed of the car and any G-forces it encounters. When the system detects more than 0.45g, it records the period 12 seconds before and 8 seconds after an accident. It can then be played back at will on the car's navigation screen. "Your own recorder could be a witness in court against you", one owner said about the unit.

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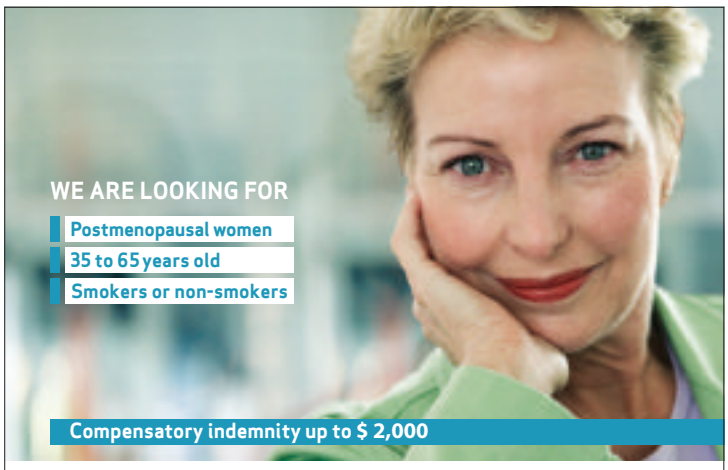

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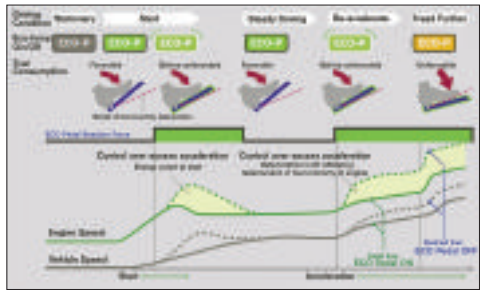
Putting brakes on fuel usage

Nissan has unveiled the ECO Pedal – a world first technology – designed to push back when you press the pedal to the metal and help you to become a more miserly driver ... of gasoline usage, that is.



Top, Nissan's ECO Pedal uses a real-time indicator to caution you about fuel consumption from excessive braking. Below is a graphic explaining the ECO Pedal technology.

When the eco-pedal system is on, each time you step on the accelerator, a counter push-back control mechanism is activated if the system detects excess pressure, helping to inform you that you could be using more fuel than required.

An eco-driving indicator in the instrument panel feeds real-time fuel consumption levels to help improve your driving behaviour. The ECO Pedal system is fed data on the rate of fuel consumption and transmission efficiency during acceleration and cruising, and then calculates the optimum acceleration rate. When the driver exerts excess pressure on the accelerator, the system counteracts with the pedal push-back control mechanism.

At the same time, the eco-driving indicator incorporated on the instrument panel indicates the optimal level for fuel-efficient driving. Driving within the optimal fuel consumption range, the indicator is green. It begins to flash when it detects increased acceleration before reaching the fuel consumption threshold and finally turns amber to advise the driver of their driving behaviour.

The system can be turned on or off according to the driver's preference.

Nissan plans to commercialize the ECO Pedal during 2009. Research conducted by the automaker has shown that using the system can improve fuel efficiency by five to 10 per cent, depending on driving conditions.

Strange items left in cars

A leading U.K. car rental firm offers a wide range of vehicles for every occasion but, judging by the unusual items its customers leave behind, the cars have strange stories to tell.

In a survey of its branches, Europcar staff revealed the strangest items found in the back of returned vans and cars, ranging from furry handcuffs to a false leg.

CDs, sunglasses and umbrellas are among the most common objects left behind, but at one location staff were surprised to find a false leg in one car.

Some renters obviously have a lot of cash to flash, considering staff at different branches have found $2,000 worth of designer clothes left behind, $1,200 of merchandise vouchers and $600 in cash. More unusual items include a set of furry handcuffs, 50 fluorescent light bulbs, a Scottish Piper's black ostrich hat, a cooked sausage and, in one curious case, a half-can of beer with a CD titled The Art of Speed Seduction.

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◊ Approximate distance based on highway mileage

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VW tees up new Golf

Sixth-generation model continues evolution of icon

Five generations, 34 years and over 26 million vehicles after the original first went on sale, the sixth generation of the Volkswagen Golf has been unveiled.

Volkswagen Golf

The new model continues the evolution of an icon.

It is the safest, most technically advanced and most dynamic iteration yet.

Instantly apparent is a sharply defined look that draws on the new design direction established by the sporty Scirocco. Klaus Bischoff, head of design for the Volkswagen brand led the team responsible for the shape of the new car.

It is more accentuated than its predecessor with precisely defined lines and edges and finely proportioned flared surfaces and recesses.

The result is a clean, elegant design that's easily recognizable as a Golf, yet remains an all-new shape.

The same simplicity and attention to detail were applied to the interior, with a quality level that benefits from the adoption of materials and equipment usually associated with a vehicle in a pricier segment.

High quality, soft touch plastics are integrated with tasteful aluminum and chrome highlights.

The new look is combined with advances made in reducing wind noise, including a completely new design of door and window seals, a new damping film that supports the windshield and a new engine mounting system, making the new Golf the quietest yet.

The new model goes on sale in Europe early next year, but there's no firm word yet when the Golf (currently sold here in fifth-gen form under the Rabbit brand name) is coming to Canada.

Toyota Segways into Winglet

In its constant quest to improve our modern mobility, Toyota — the world's biggest car manufacturer — has just unveiled its answer to the U.S.-developed Segway in the form of the Winglet — a 'personal transport assistant robot.'

The Japanese automaker plans three versions of the Winglet: the L, M and S models with handling features that range from "practical" to "hands-free sporty".

The Winglet uses an electric motor to power its two wheels and uses sensors and a gyroscope that monitors the rider's position to stay upright. Like the Segway it is directed by the user's shifting body weight.

It takes one hour to fully recharge the Winglet. Cruising speed is about 6 km/h, not quite as good as the Segway's top speed of 20 km/h.

There are three different versions of the Winglet. The L offers a set of hand-height handlebars like the Segway, but the other two variants only support users' legs. The S model has a cruising range of 5 km while the M and L can double that distance.

Toyota took over development of the Winglet from Sony, which wound up most of its robotics division last year. Real-world testing is imminent, with production already scheduled and sales due to start in 2010, although there is no confirmation as to whether it will be coming to North America.

The S-Model Winglet from Toyota.

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Falling numbers
The number of tourists to Kenya dropped by more than a third in the first half of the year, a top tourism official said, blaming deadly post-election violence. The country relies on tourism to its famed wildlife safaris, beaches and other attractions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travel

On the fly

"Glamour" camping destination Clayoquot Wilderness Resort in B.C. is offering a ladies' fly fishing weekend from Sept. 18 to 21. Guests will rough it in white canvas tents filled with Persian rugs, antiques, and four poster beds covered with fluffy duvets — and dress in "wilderness chic apparel" that will put them at the height of fly fishing fashion. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Sri Lanka's celebration of God

Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim pilgrims come to worship

TheTravelJunkie
Julia Dimon

thetraveljunkie.ca

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Scenes from the Kataragama Festival, a two week-long event in Sri Lanka that sees a huge influx of some 100,000 pilgrims.

The air smells of kerosene and jasmine flower. Young men crack whips as thick as cobras, while others skillfully twirl fire, leaving circular trails of light. There is rhythmic drumming and tribal dancing. It's what I imagine Burning Man Festival to be, except drugs and drinking are replaced by devotion to deities.

This is Kataragama Festival, a two week-long holy event that sees the arrival of some 100,000 Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim pilgrims. Devotees, many of whom have travelled for weeks to get to this auspicious city, have come to worship and perform acts of penance and self-mortification. Some swing from hooks piercing their bodies while others walk on fire to show their devotion to God.

The festival entrance has a carnival-type atmosphere, with vendors selling stuffed animals, fruit offerings, plastic trinkets and sweets. Walking through the fairgrounds, I'm happy to see that security is heightened with checkpoints and police searching baggage — as the civil war between the separatist Tamils and the Sri Lankan government continues, you can't be too careful.

This holy shrine and popular pilgrim centre is humanity at its finest.

Past the checkpoints, people have gathered, eagerly watching the procession of elephants down a path illuminated by beads of light. Dressed in a red rhinestone cloak, one elephant looks like a Mexican luchador wrestler.

This holy shrine and popular pilgrim centre is humanity at its finest. On the fringes of the main action, I see the bodies of passed out pilgrims strewn all over the ground. Some are cooking their dinner by small smouldering fire (a scene that's becoming increasingly more common with the rise in gas prices) while others are gently rocking their babies to sleep.

Trying to find a spot to watch the parade, I make my way through the maze. Every step is carefully calculated and I'm wary of stepping on little hands and feet. Though many have been waiting for hours for their spots, all are welcoming as I cozy my way up to the front.

Seated on the sandy floor, a woman offers me a piece of her tarp to sit on. Here, people are very generous to foreigners. I'm offered oranges, water and lots of smiles.

I can feel all eyes on me. Here, I'm partly a movie star and partly a sideshow freak. Mothers holding infants point at me, raising their voices and eyebrows as if to say, "Look at that. Isn't that girl amusing?"

While some might feel self-conscious, I sort of like being "the other." I get off on being the outsider. In a crowd of thousands, I feel strangely satisfied that there are only a handful of foreigners.

This is how a travel writer knows she's in the right spot — when the tourists are gone, there are no fanny-pack wearers from Florida and not a McDonald's in sight.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

Sundae driving on Ice Cream Trail

CONNECTICUT You've heard of winery trails and biking trails and birding trails. But how about an ice cream trail? Eastern Connecticut has created an official ice cream trail to guide visitors to the best spots for locally produced and often homemade ice cream.

A brochure, Follow the Ice Cream Trail: Sundae Drives, lists 35 places to get your scoops, cones, shakes, rainbow sprinkles and hot fudge sauce. It is available at *mysticcountry.com*. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Go medieval
The Queen Eliška Festival, held Sept.5-6 in Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, will include countless knights, musicians, magicians, falconers, swordsmen, stall keepers and actors; *calendariumregina.cz*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel in brief

NEWFOUNDLAND It's about a 3,000-kilometre drive from Canada's largest city to the country's most eastern capital, but a step inside Melanie Mooney's ride will transport passengers within moments from Toronto to St. John's — all from the comfort of the backseat. Mooney is cruising the streets offering free 15-minute rides around the city core to Toronto residents and tourists alike in a customized Crown Victoria to discuss and share information about Newfoundland and Labrador. The car is stocked with guidebooks, maps and videos of the province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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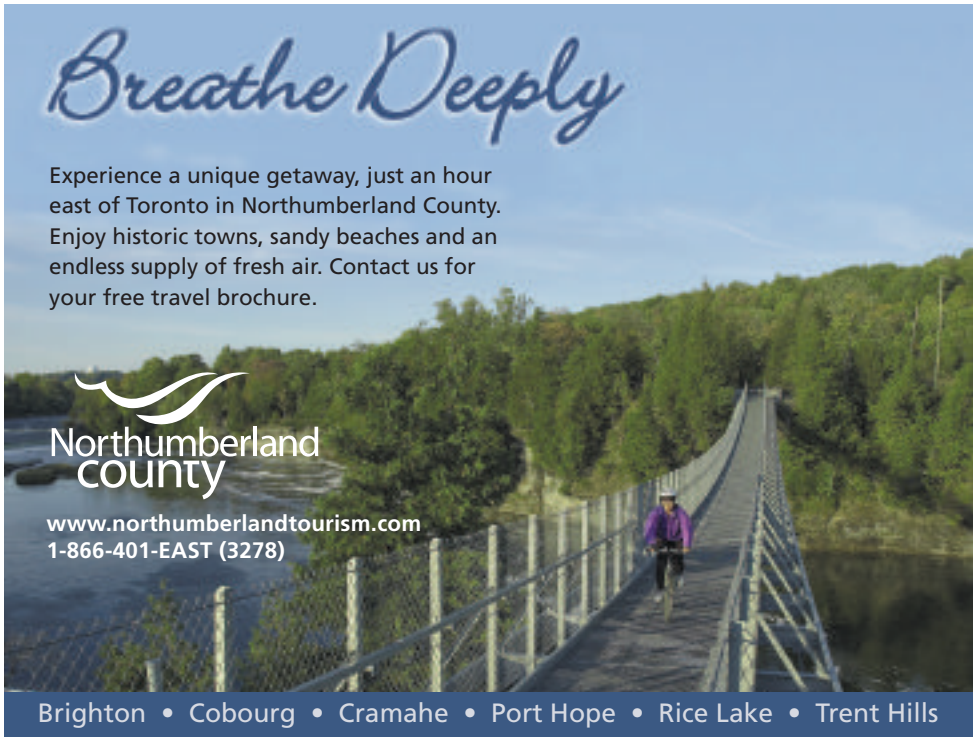
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GTAA wants you to name that allosaurus

Right now they're known as Othnielia and Allosaurus, but Pearson International Airport would like its newly installed dinosaurs to have friendlier names.

The two dinos — skeleton casts from the Royal Ontario Museum — have been put on display at the airport's Terminal 1 international arrivals area. They take passengers back to the time "when pterodactyls travelled the skies instead of airplanes," says the Greater Toronto Airports Authority.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
The GTAA would like Allosaurus and pal to have friendlier names.

The organization has launched a Name the Airport Dinosaurs contest.

Prizes include a one-year family membership to the museum as well as merchandise. The new names will be featured in the display. "The experts aren't sure if these dinosaurs are male or female, so send us whatever names you think fit," the GTAA says on its website. For details on entering the contest, visit *gtaa.com*.

The exhibit, titled A Scene From the Late Jurassic, "captures a moment of 150 million years ago: a small herbivore, Othnielia, has tripped to the ground as a large predator Allosaurus bears down," the ROM says in a release.

It will stay on display until 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feast of Fields goes national

The Feast of Fields annual harvest festival in B.C. is "a gourmet wandering picnic," organizers say. "With a wine glass and linen napkin in hand, you can taste the very best of B.C. from chefs, vintners, brewers, farmers and food artisans from across the province."

The festival will be staged at three locations on three different days: at Rebagliati Park in Whistler on Aug. 30; Vancouver's UBC Farm on Sept. 7; and Victorian Epicure Vineyard in North Saanich on Sept. 21. Adult tickets range from $75 to $85. See *feastoffields.merchantsecure.com*.

B.C.'s Feast of Fields is the annual fundraising event of the non-profit group FarmFolk/CityFolk which works towards a local, sustainable food system.

The Feast of Fields concept was created by Michael Stadtlander who partnered with fellow Ontario chef Jamie Kennedy "to create an event that aimed to get sophisticated urbanites out to the farm," says FarmFolk/CityFolk.

This year Stadtlander will be a keynote speaker at a Feast of Fields event at the Everdale Organic Farm in Hillsburgh, 45 minutes northwest of Toronto, on Sept. 7, *feastoffields.com*. As well the Ottawa chapter of Canadian Organic Growers will hold a Feast of Fields on Sept. 14 at that city's Vincent Massey Park, *cog.ca/ottawa/feast-of-fields*. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airfares

New York	Travel Aug 26-Sep 3/pd	**$118** + $186 taxes & fees
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Las Vegas	Travel Sep 9-Sep 16/ac	**$198** + $233 taxes & fees
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TICO

Flying high
A falconry program has opened at the Hotel Hershey in Pennsylvania. The program educates participants about the birds and the sport's history, and includes outdoor free-flight demonstrations, a demonstration of the bird's hunting techniques. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec's Eastern Townships rife with award-winning wines

Eastern Townshippers called Christian Barthomeuf a nutcase when he planted a vineyard in Quebec 30 years ago. Now there are about 50 vineyards in the province and their wines have won more than 300 medals in North American and international competitions.

PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pierre Verreault picks grapes in a vineyard in Durham, Que. There are about 50 vineyards in the province and its wines have won more than 300 medals in North American and international competitions.

The Eastern Townships are less than an hour from Montreal and border the state of Vermont. The Route des vins, or Wine Route, allows enthusiasts the chance to visit the birthplace of Quebec wine production.

The region boasts the highest concentration of vineyards in the province, and the Route des vins spans 132 kilometres through micro-climates varied enough to be reminiscent of those in Tuscany.

The vineyards tend toward small, family-run productions that are either certified organic or have chosen more ecological viticultural practices. They use few herbicides and pesticides and have a natural approach to winemaking.

"At Clos Saragnat vineyard we produce real 'vins de terroir' (wine of the land)," Barthomeuf said.

"There are no additives, the fermentation is completely natural and we use nothing but a little sulphite when bottling."

Quebec's most famous wine is icewine, a sweet nectar produced from grapes that have been frozen on the vine.

Barthomeuf's Frelighsburg vineyard produces both icewine and ice cider.

Another vineyard that has distinguished itself is the tiny three-hectare Les Pervenches winery in Farnham. It's one of the few certified organic vineyards in the region and produces Chardonnay.

> **"Maybe it's the French culture, but there are a lot of wine maniacs here."**
> Anthony John

Wines from Les Pervenches are available in some of Montreal's more upscale restaurants like Pied du Cochon and Toque.

"For us it's important to keep our wine healthy," said Veronique Hupin, the vineyard's co-owner. "We believe it makes a difference in the wine. There's more life in the soil. We wanted life in all the soil layers."

Because traditional grape production wouldn't work in Quebec's harsh northern climate, producers usually had to choose hybrid or rarer grape varieties for their vineyards.

Simon Naud, co-owner of La Bauge winery in Brigham, said Quebec hybrids are fresh, delicate and aromatic.

La Bauge translates as "Wild Boar's Den." It was founded in 1976 as a farm where animals were raised to sell to restaurants in Old Montreal. Visitors to the vineyard can also see an exotic animal park featuring llamas, yaks, emus, red deer and, of course, boars.

Anthony John owns the family-run Chapelle Ste-Agnes winery in Sutton. The vineyard, built on a steep hillside with massive stone walls supporting 18 terraces, won two awards for its icewine at the 2006 International Wine and Spirit Competition in London.

"We're pretty passionate about the wine and we work hard at it," John said. "Maybe it's the French culture, but there are a lot of wine maniacs here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

- Go to *laroutedesvins.ca* for information on the Wine Route and other events in the region.
- La Fete des Vendanges is a festival that celebrates Quebec wines in late August and early September in Magog, Que. For details, visit *fetedesvendanges.com*.

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Poetry slam

Fans of the Scottish poet Robbie Burns can get their fill of his verse at Calgary's Highland Games. A total of $3,000 in prize money will be handed out in a Burns recital and competition, which will feature both poetry and song. Visit *calgaryhighlandgames.org*. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heading to Britain on a budget? Try swapping homes to save some cash

BRITAIN VisitBritain has some tips for people interested in swapping homes as a way to save money on vacation:

• The tourism promotion agency recommends Intervac, intervac.com, as a home exchange program offering a "diverse selection of apartments, country houses and cottages in England, Scotland and Wales."

• Green Theme International Home Exchange Holiday Service specializes in "eco-friendly homes" which may have solar panels, fluorescent or LED lights and sometimes bicycles or hybrid cars; visit gti-home-exchange.com.

• HomeExchange, homeexchange.com, offers house swaps as well as hospitality exchanges, where you may stay with your host family.

• Self-catering apartments such as Club Suites, sloaneclub.co.uk, and Soho Square, londonapartment service.co.uk, can also help you cut down on dining out expenses. Self-catering apartments have full-service kitchens with cooking utensils so you can buy food at a local grocery store and cook your own meals.

• VisitBritain recommends checking out beabritdifferent.com to connect with locals for tips on places to go and ways to save money.

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Shoestring hotel luxe

Being bedbug-free isn't enough — hostel guests now expect hotel-like perks too

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The weak U.S. dollar has driven some higher-income students and older travellers to stay in European hostels, and they expect hotel style on a shoestring budget.

Europe's youth hostels are shedding their image of bedbug-ridden dorm rooms and mildewed showers as they attract a new clientele. Annie Worth, a 21-year-old from Orinda, Calif., said she and her friends were used to staying in nice hotels with their parents on vacation, but had chosen to stay in no-frill hostels during an 11-country backpacking trip through Europe.

"With the euro being so strong and the U.S. dollar being so weak, I think a lot of younger people who had initially avoided them are staying there because they are hearing so many great things about them and money is tight," she said.

Hostel owners are reporting that they are attracting a different type of customer.

Alongside young people on shoestring budgets, they are also seeing more students from wealthier backgrounds and more travellers over the age of 30.

Lynn Schouten, manager of the Shelter Jordan in Amsterdam, said she is getting more well-heeled students and older guests who are used to the finer things in life — and are not so keen on 18-bed shared rooms.

"It's not only youth filling up the hostel anymore like in the '70s," she said.

In response to this new demand, her hostel was renovated last year to add smaller suites that "are more expensive but also provide more privacy and luxury," she said.

Hostels are not always ridiculously cheap. Most single beds in dormitory rooms cost between US$31 and $47 a night and can climb as high as $78 for a dorm-room stay in tourist hotspot Amsterdam.

Heather Barrett, 21, also of Orinda, Calif., said she was surprised by how much hostels in Britain, Spain and Italy cost.

"I thought they would be much cheaper," she said. "They can be surprisingly expensive for the quality, so I suppose the image of the cheap backpackers' hostel is rapidly disappearing."

Alice Tamaian, assistant manager at Youth Hostel Jacques Brel in Brussels, said the Americans who are still coming to Europe don't seem very worried about money and come laden with tech toys such as fancy laptops, iPods and digital cameras.

Vincent Dewilde, manager of 2GO4 Quality Hostel in downtown Brussels, agrees, saying he gets the impression that many young Americans are travelling on their parents' credit cards.

"They talk about the price, but it doesn't prevent them from coming here and travelling," he said.

"They talk about the price, but it doesn't prevent them from coming here."
Vincent Dewilde, hostel manager

They are getting more perks than in the past, he said, such as free wireless Internet access and televisions in their rooms.

As the line between budget hotel and luxury hostel blurs, the hostel holds one trump card.

"We chose hostels because I think we wanted a more authentic backpacking experience," said Kristy Krsulich, 21, of San Bruno, Calif., who travelled across Europe with Worth. "For the time we were in Italy, we stayed in budget hotels, and by the end of it we were excited to get back to staying in larger rooms with more people."

The charm of the hostel experience draws many people to shun cheap hotels with private bathrooms.

Instead, they stay in dormitories sleeping up to 20 strangers, with shared bathrooms where shower sandals are a must.

While there's always the risk of the occasional bedbug, a quick look at reader reviews on sites like TripAdvisor shows that infestations are not all that common, and can be found at hotels just as often as they can at hostels.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

- *hostelworld.com*
- *hihostels.com*
- *tripadvisor.com*

Travel industry finds U.S. tourists are no longer 'low-hanging fruit'

For 40 years, motel owner Gordon Heading counted on American travellers for a steady stream of business each summer along Cape Breton's scenic Cabot Trail.

But this year, Heading says his American business is down 60 per cent from what it used to be. Nearly half of the U.S. tour buses due to stop at his Cabot Trail Motel now say they can't find enough passengers to make the journey profitable.

"We're getting cancellation after cancellation," the 75-year-old said by phone while manning the motel's front desk in Baddeck, N.S.

"There's no cancellations out of the Canadian side or the European side, but the American cancellations are killing everybody."

Travel industry groups in the U.S. report Americans are travelling abroad this summer as much as they ever did — they just aren't coming to Canada. A new survey of 2,230 Americans released on Friday by the U.S. Travel Industry Association reports only 9 per cent of adults plan to take so-called "staycations."

> **"We've just got to pick up our game."**
> Randy Williams

That follows a study released earlier this summer by the American Automobile Association that reported bookings for European tours have nudged up 5 per cent this summer, while travel to Canada has cooled off.

"Canada's not the bargain people thought it was before," said AAA spokesman Mike Pina, citing a stronger loonie. He adds that as new passport regulations loom for Americans going to Canada, more people are getting passports and are considering travelling further afield.

"There's more competition in a time of the year that's important to (Canadian tourism)," Pina said.

American travel abroad has grown in leaps and bounds after being sent into a tailspin by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It went up from 56.2 million travellers in 2003 to a record-breaking 64.1 million in 2007, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Over the same period, American travel to Canada dipped by about one million visitors, outpaced by recent double-digit growth in U.S. travel to destinations like Germany, Japan, Spain and India.

The president of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada says he's not surprised.

Randy Williams says that after years of blaming external factors like terrorism fears or a weak American economy, Canadian tourism operators are realizing there are other issues deterring U.S. visitors.

"We've just got to pick up our game," he said, adding that American tourists have typically been considered "low-hanging fruit" by Canadian tourism operators.

"Traditionally, the dollar was 65 cents and fuel costs were low and so it was easy and we got spoiled, for sure."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Alcohol consumption

A new study from a U.S.-based institute found that college women aged 18 and 19 who binge drink —consuming 4 or more alcoholic beverages per day — are almost 20 times more likely to experience sexual aggression, ranging from unwanted groping to rape. **RIA NEWS RELEASE**

Workology

Outbreak

There are five confirmed and at least 16 suspected cases of E.coli in connection with the University of Guelph's food services. The victims are believed to have been infected with the bacteria between July 21 and 25.

UOGUELPH CAMPUS BULLETIN

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

expansion

•By Sept. 2009, Greg Overholt hopes to have 20 SOS chapters in total at universities across Canada, with plans to expand to U.S. schools by 2010.

Classrooms to break down poverty's walls

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Greg Overholt wants to prove that raising marks back home can lead to raising roofs in the third world.

Overholt is the executive director of Students Offering Support (SOS), a non-profit organization which offers study sessions to Canadian students for a $20 donation fee and then uses the money to send volunteers abroad to build schools and improve the lives of kids living in poverty.

Overholt, a 23-year-old business and computer science major at Wilfred Laurier University, launched SOS officially in 2006 and already in its first year the organization raised $65,000. Most of the money was used to fly a team of 20 volunteers down to Belize last August to build a modern school facility complete with electricity, running water and a modern washroom for 100 boys and girls in the town of Calla Creek. The rest was put into helping build another school in Jamaica through a different charity organization there.

To date SOS has raised nearly $120,000 and Overholt hopes it will be able to raise half a million dollars by the end of 2010.

Overholt's passion for helping to build schools for underprivileged kids comes from his own philosophy about the importance of education in stopping the cycle of poverty.

"Education, in my mind, is the number one way to break poverty. It is the most efficient way to provide children with choices they can make with their lives and not be slaves to poverty. I feel that it's the best way we can help them to lift themselves up," Overholt said.

SOS started at Laurier but has been growing by leaps and bounds since, with a second chapter in Trent University and nine new chapters expected by this coming September including ones at Queen's University, the University of Regina and McGill University.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Above: Students Offering Support volunteers pose for a group photo in Belize and, right, volunteers distribute school supplies to children.

Laurier business student Katie Sin, 22, heard SOS was planning a trip to Belize last summer and decided she wanted to get involved. She flew down with 19 SOS volunteers to help build a school for underprivileged kids in the Calla Creek region.

For Sin, the best part was seeing the great response from the kids at seeing their new school go up, complete with electricity.

"Just seeing the difference that you make and seeing kids' faces light up — it was great to see that. It shows what a difference 20 students from Canada can make," Sin said.

For Overholt, the success of the program has been a life-changing experience.

"People ask me, 'What are you doing after university?' My job is to get more people aware of the problems of child poverty. My job is to help students," Overholt said.

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Less-than-stellar legacy
A new study from Duke University found legacy students — admitted children of alumni — are less well prepared for university than peers whose parents were educated elsewhere. **INSIDE HIGHER ED**

The fine print: Your rights could be in it

WorkplaceLaw

It's possibly the worst fraud in workplace law — corporations, with expensive lawyers and deeper pockets, convincing employees to sign one-sided contracts that reduce their legal rights. And employees, without bargaining power or an understanding of the law, not realizing their interests have been undermined.

The landscape wasn't always tilted. Employees used to work mostly without contracts or with simple offer letters that only specified the basics: Position, compensation and duration. But, as a function of learning from past mistakes, employers woke up and started sharpening their pencils: Why not prevent expensive lawsuits, exorbitant severance packages and competition from former employees, all with a single contract.

The result is the modern employment contract, replete with employer-friendly terms. Employees now unknowingly agree to be eliminated with minimum notice, demoted, banished to far away jurisdictions, see their salary slashed, prevented from competition following their departure, and have promises broken at their employer's pleasure — all with legal impunity.

"... If a contract has been reviewed and executed before employment begins, an employee is often held to the deal that was made, whether fair or not."

Don't misunderstand. Employees are not entirely without recourse. The Supreme Court has recognized the unique nature of the employment contract and the inherent power imbalance when negotiating terms.

As a result, judges have created various devices to prevent unfairness. If the contract is ambiguous, illegal, provides less than employment standards legislation or is entered into under duress or coercion, it may be set aside.

While these devices provide a level of protection, they still ignore some fundamental truths.

First, employees seldom negotiate contracts and if they do, it's rarely on equal footing. Either they fear the job offer will be withdrawn and offered to a competitor or they are simply told the language will not be changed. In today's slowing job market, their fears are not unfounded. Employers, then, usually have their way.

As well, the legal doctrine of freedom contract, which provides employers the right to offer employment on their own terms, is still recognized today, although it is often in conflict with commercial and legal reality.

Therefore, if a contract has been reviewed and executed before employment begins, an employee is often held to the deal that was made, whether fair or not.

How do these contracts affect workers? In a file I have, the employee had been recruited away from a large U.S. technology firm where he worked for 8 years, to join a Canadian competitor. Before he began, he signed what he was told was a "standard form" contract. Six months later he was fired.

It was a simple win — or so he thought. He had a strong legal claim for inducement, which meant that his new employer would be responsible for the severance he was owed from his old job. But the contract he signed specifically prevents him from making that claim and worse, limits his damages to only one week's pay.

Although the conclusion to his case will probably be based on other factors that are involved, there is one certainty: Without the contract, his case would be stronger.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

What should employees do?

- Challenge the enforceability of these contracts, where the facts present them with that argument. I have won in court by raising the inference that a signed contract was without proper consent — such findings are not exceptions.
- Have any new contract reviewed with a lawyer and don't be reluctant to renegotiate terms.

Employees seldom negotiate contracts and if they do, it's rarely on equal footing. Employers, then, usually have their way.

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Youth group in favour of higher fees?
The Quebec Liberal youth wing recently voted in favour of doubling, even tripling, provincial tuition. CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

Liar, liar, resume on fire

Employers catch falsehoods on applications

Is your resume more fiction than fact? Experts warn bending the truth can cost you the job.

Although only 8 per cent of workers admitted to stretching the truth on their resumes, nearly half (49 per cent) of hiring managers reported they caught a candidate lying on their resume.

Of these employers, 57 percent said they automatically dismissed the applicant. This is according to CareerBuilder.com's latest survey of more than 3,100 hiring managers and over 8,700 workers nationwide conducted from May 22 to June 13, 2008.

Thirty-six per cent of employers who received falsified applications said they still considered the candidate, but did not hire him/her. A small percentage (6 per cent) ended up hiring the applicant.

Industries experiencing higher incidences of resume fabrications included Hospitality, Transportation/Utilities and Information Technology. Sixty-per cent of employers in Hospitality, 59 per cent in Transportation/Utilities and 57 per cent in IT reported they found lies on resumes. Government had the lowest incident at 45 per cent.

"Even the slightest embellishment can come back to haunt you and ruin your credibility," said Rosemary Haefner, Vice President of Human Resources at CareerBuilder.com. "If you're concerned about gaps in employment, your academic background or skill sets, invention is not the answer. Use your cover letter strategically to tell your story, focusing on your strengths and accomplishments and explaining any areas of concern if needed."

The most common lies discovered on a resume, according to the survey, include:

- Embellished responsibilities (38 per cent)
- Skill set (18 per cent)
- Dates of employment (12 per cent)
- Academic degree (10 per cent)
- Companies worked for (7 per cent)
- Job title (5 per cent)

METRO NEWS SERVICES

the best of the worst

CareerBuilder.com asked hiring managers to share the most memorable or outrageous lies they came across on resumes. Examples include:

- Claimed to be a member of the Kennedy family.
- Invented a school that did not exist.
- Claimed to have worked for the hiring manager before, but never had.
- Listed military experience dating back to before he was born.
- Included samples of work, which the interviewer actually did.
- Claimed to be Hispanic when he was Caucasian.
- Claimed to have been a professional baseball player.

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Greatest B
Evil Dead 2 has topped a new U.S. magazine poll to find the Greatest B-Movie of All Time. The cult zombie film claimed 31 per cent of the Paste reader vote to beat Plan 9 From Outer Space and Killer Klowns From Outer Space. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Worth her Salt
The espionage thriller Edwin A. Salt, originally intended as a vehicle for Tom Cruise, is being rewritten for Angelina Jolie now that Cruise is no longer attached to the film. Jolie is reportedly close to a deal regarding the movie. E! NEWS ONLINE

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Finding satire in war

KIM LINEKIN
for Metro Canada

FEATURE Ben Stiller and Justin Theroux wrote their war movie spoof Tropic Thunder after watching the DVD extras of classic Vietnam war movies and finding something absurd about the cast interviews.

"You had these people who'd be like, 'Making a movie is like going to war. And the director is your general,'" says Theroux. "And you'd think, 'Yeah, but you're not going to die! You're not killing people. It's not anything like going to war. You have cameramen!' We laughed really hard."

Though they poke fun at how war movies are made, Stiller says they're not making fun of war. "This is a comedy about making movies. It's not a war comedy — it's not like Catch-22." Stiller himself is a serious fan of war movies. "The movies that we're satirizing, like Platoon, Deer Hunter, Full Metal Jacket — all those are movies that I grew up watching and was very affected by."

MICHAEL BUCKNER/GETTY IMAGES

Ben Stiller wrote the spoof Tropic Thunder after noticing some eccentricities with more dramatic war movies.

So he agrees there's something absurd about the likelihood that his war movie spoof will attract a bigger audience than all the serious movies about the Iraq war combined. "I think it's unfortunate that people don't go see movies about the war in Iraq," he says.

"But I also feel like it's sort of the nature of the fact that we're in a conflict that's very close to home. It's hard. People don't want to go there for entertainment."

Theroux believes the problem is timing. "It's not like it's too soon — the dialogue should definitely be starting," he argues. "But we don't have any perspective on the current war right now. It's like writing biographies of people before they're dead. We don't know their place in history yet." As the only actor in Tropic Thunder who's been in serious war movies like The Thin Red Line, Nick Nolte says he learned a lot from the experience.

"I'm what you would call a coward. I just do not want to ever kill anybody. The thought of it is horrifying. And I'm too old to believe patriotically that there's anything worth fighting for.

"And so being in a war movie, I get to discover the attitude of a patriot, of someone who believes that they must fight."

Theroux notes the ultimate absurdity of taking war movies too seriously. "Obviously they're not stopping wars."

Entertainment in brief

BRIT'S MOM'S BOOK Lynne Spears' book is due out Sept. 16 – but the cover was unveiled this week, People reports. The tome is not a parenting guide, as many expected. The memoir was intended for publication sooner, but was put on hold when daughter Jamie Lynn got pregnant.

FRAGRANCE DEFENCE Hip-hop mogul Sean Combs has hit back at reports he modelled his new fragrance on royalty because he has such an inflated ego, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Combs is set to launch his new men's fragrance I Am King worldwide in February.

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Spelling out of 90210 spinoff

Spelling

Actress Tori Spelling has pulled out of the forthcoming Beverly Hills, 90210 spinoff amid rumours of a salary row, imdb.com reports.

The star has reportedly walked away from the revamped TV show after discovering she is to be paid $10,000 to $20,000 US per episode — less than half the figure former co-stars Jennie Garth and Shannen Doherty are picking up to reprise their roles. Spelling's representative has subsequently confirmed the actress' decision.

"At this time, there are no plans for Tori to appear in the 90210 spinoff," her rep told usmagazine.com.

The change of direction comes just two months after bosses at U.S. TV network CW announced Spelling would return as Donna Martin, now the owner of one of the hippest stores in Beverly Hills.

Spelling took the part at the time, stating, "I am excited about it. In some way, every show that followed 90210 was a remake of 90210. For the fans' sake, I am really happy for them."

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Fashion plate

Actress Eva Longoria Parker is thinking about designing her own fashion line. "I would love to design one day. I do not have the time right now but I would love to develop a home line or a clothing line," she said. IMDB.COM

Ritchie hopes for film to be a hit

MOVIES Guy Ritchie is praying his next movie Rocknrolla turns around his Hollywood fortunes, because he has already written a sequel, imdb.com reports. After a string of box-office flops, Ritchie is banking on the underworld thriller capturing the imagination of cinema-goers.

Since Ritchie already has a sequel written and ready to shoot, he said: "So people better go see it. It'll allow me to make the next one."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Stiller succeeds back in director's chair

Tropic Thunder

Director: Ben Stiller
Stars: Ben Stiller, Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr.
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●● 1/2

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

REVIEW War! What is it good for? As it turns out, it's not too bad for Ben Stiller, who returns to the writer-director's chair for the first time since his box office hit, Zoolander.

In Tropic Thunder, Stiller leads the all-star cast of Jack Black, Robert Downey Jr. and even Tom Cruise (in a surprising role that's sure to relieve those who thought he'd all but beamed up to Planet Thetan) in this spoof of Hollywood egos and icons.

Stiller plays Tugg Speedman, a fleeting action star leading the cast of a fictional war film being shot in Southeast Asia.

After the movie goes over budget, the actors are sent into the jungle to capture "real fear in their eyes".

Instead, the gang loses their director, get lost themselves and fall prey to real terrorists.

The twist: They're convinced it's all part of the movie.

It's a great premise and one that doesn't let down with its cast.

Downey Jr. steals the show playing method-actor Kirk Lazarus (Downey Jr.) who has undergone a procedure to darken his skin in order to be "a dude playing a dude disguised as another dude".

Perhaps more surprising is the supporting cast. That Stiller gave such weight to young stars Jay Baruchel and Brandon Jackson is credit to his maturity as a filmmaker.

Where a stellar cast take hilarious self-deprecating stabs at moviemaking and the false egos of stardom, Stiller, however, tends to mug blankly to camera as he mostly did in Zoolander.

Still, with satisfying cameo appearances, broad but funny gags and a great sense of timing, Tropic Thunder may be the summer's last kick at solid box-office comedy.

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This all-star band features former lead singers & musicians from Steppenwolf, Santana, Lynyrd Skynyrd, TOTO & Boston.
THE STAMPEDERS
Sun, Aug 17 8 PM
This Juno Award-winning threesome lights up the Bandshell with classic hits such as Sweet City Woman, Wild Eyes and more!
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AUG 15 - SEPT 1
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*Gate Prices: General Admission = $14; Children (13 yrs. & under) and Seniors (60 yrs. plus) = $10; Babes in Arms (2 yrs. & under) = Free;
On-site unlimited ride Midway Pass = $31 plus admission. Retail Partner Prices (all ages): Fun Pass = $10; Magic Pass = $31.
Prices are PST exempt and include 5% GST (GST #119396976). **Valid at midway rides only. Does not include helicopter rides. All programming subject to change.

Robert Downey Jr., Ben Stiller and Jay Baruchel are actors shooting a war movie who get caught up in a real battle in the action comedy Tropic Thunder.

Celeb charity
Stars such as Ewan McGregor and Harry Potter actor Robbie Coltrane are giving their glasses to the highest bidder to benefit the charity Sightsavers. All pairs of glasses will be listed on eBay on Friday and will be available to bid for until the following weekend. IMDB.COM

Cineplex

This page covers local start times for today's new film release, Tropic Thunder.

Downtown

SCOTIABANK THEATRE TORONTO
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600
No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-1:20-3:20-4:15-6:45-7:45-9:30-10:35

RAINBOW CINEMAS MARKET SQUARE
80 Front St., 416-494-9371
Wed-Thu 12:45-3:20-6:45-9:15

SILVERCITY YONGE-EGLINTON CENTRE
2300 Yonge St., 416-544-1236
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:40-10:20

West End

QUEENSWAY
1025 The Queensway, 416-503-0424
No Passes Wed-Thu 12:20-1:20-3:40-4:40-6:55-7:45-9:55-10:45

RAINBOW WOODBINE CENTRE
500 Rexdale Blvd., 416-213-1998
Wed-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10-9:40

BEACH CINEMAS
1651 Queen St. E., 416-699-5971
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:15-4:30-7:30-10:20

North York

AMC

SHEPPARD GRANDE
4861 Yonge St., 416-590-9974
No Passes Wed-Thu 1-4-7:10-10:15

SILVERCITY YORKDALE 6
3401 Dufferin St., 416-444-3456
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10

Scarborough

COLISEUM SCARBOROUGH
300 Borough Dr., 416-290-5217
No Passes Wed-Thu 1-1:20-4-4:20-7-7:20-10-10:10

EGLINTON TOWN CENTRE
1901 Eglinton Ave. E., 416-752-4494
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:40-4:45-7:45-10:40

401 & MORNINGSIDE
785 Milner Ave., 416-281-2226
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:05-3:50-7:15-10:05

Peel Region

COLISEUM 10
309 Rathburn Rd., 905-275-3456
No Passes Wed-Thu 12:50-1:50-3:50-4:50-6:50-8-9:45-10:50

COURTNEY PARK 16
110 Courtney Park Dr., 905-362-1210
Special Engagement Tue 12:01 Special Engagement Wed-Thu 1:45-2:30-4:30-5:15-7:15-8-10-11

ORION GATE GRANDE
20 Biscayne Cr., 905-455-1590
No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-3:35-7:40-10:20

North

AURORA CINEMAS
15460 Bayview Ave., 905-841-1789
No Passes Wed-Thu 12-3-7:20-10:20

ELGIN MILLS 10 CINEMAS
10909 Yonge St., 905-770-6998
No Passes Wed-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:20-10:10

FIRST MARKHAM PLACE
3275 Hwy 7 E., 905-474-5101
No Passes Wed-Thu 1-4:20-7:30-10:10

INTERCHANGE 30
30 Interchange Way, 905-760-1911
Special Engagement Tue 12:01 Special Engagement Wed-Thu 12:05-12:30-1:15-2:30-3:15-4-5-5:45-6:30-7:30-8:15-9-10-10:45

SILVERCITY NEWMARKET

Alliance Atlantis

Nick Nolte in Tropic Thunder.

Rainbow Cinemas

18151 Yonge St., 905-953-2792
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:35

SILVERCITY RICHMOND HILL
8771 Yonge St., 905-709-3199
No Passes Wed-Thu 2-4:35-7:15-10:05

Halton

SILVERCITY BURLINGTON 8
1250 Brant St., 416-646-0444
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30

SILVERCITY BRAMPTON
50 Great Lakes, 905-789-6797
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:55

WINSTON CHURCHILL
2081 Winston Park Dr. Oakville, 905-829-2009
Special Engagement Tue 12:01

Durham

AJAX
248 Kingston Rd. E, Hwy 2, 905-426 7772
No Passes Wed-Thu 12:15-3:40-7:05-9:45

PICKERING 8
1355 Kingston Rd., 416-646-0444
No Passes Wed-Thu 12:10-4:10-7:30-10:15

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Theatre genius on film
Director Taylor Hackford working on Tenn, a movie about playwright Tennessee Williams. IMDB.COM

Fishing for art

ANN-MARIE COLACINO
Metro Canada

From a cross-country bike tour to a $60 homemade music video that garnered two million viewers, it's clear there are few things musician Jeremy Fisher won't do for his art.

Add an acoustic guitar, a consciousness writing style, a Dylan-esque quality (including a busking background) and you'll begin to understand the grassroots-like charm of Fisher.

Recently nominated for two Junos, the Vancouver-based, Hamilton-born singer is currently on tour with The Proclaimers promoting his third record, Goodbye Blue Monday.

Produced by fellow Canuck musician Hawksley Workman, the pop/folk-infused album offers a continuum of mostly upbeat guitar tracks featuring bursts of accordion, keyboard and harmonica.

It's from this collection that the aforementioned YouTube Cigarette video comes from. Shot in Fisher's apartment, the video features a 'walking' cigarette made out of modeling clay as well as the artist's trademark stop-animation filming.

As for the cancer stick, it's used as a metaphor for addictive relationships — both the excitement and the heartbreak.

"It (was) more about concept than budget," says Fisher, explaining the impetus behind the project. "I just really wanted to make something that was a statement of my own."

Yet, Fisher, 31, proves he isn't afraid to tackle even weightier topics with a song like American Girls about Pte. Lynndie England, the Abu Gharib soldier who took photos of Iraqi prisoners. Again, despite its grim lyrics, the song offers toe-tapping rhythm.

"I don't really see it as being political. It's more of a personal reaction to how politics affect people," says Fisher, referring to his songwriting. "I think in a democracy the most important and greatest thing about it is that we discuss issues that aren't black or white, which most issues aren't."

What is clear is Fisher's determination. In 2002, he biked from Seattle to Halifax to promote his first album, Back Porch Spirituals. The six-month journey included 30 official shows and some impromptu busking.

When asked about another possible bike tour, Fisher says he is trying to organize one for the fall.

"I've wanted to try to at least get an annual thing going ... But so far, it's only been me who's interested," he jokes.

online

- View Jeremy Fisher's popular Cigarette music video at jeremyfishermusic.com.

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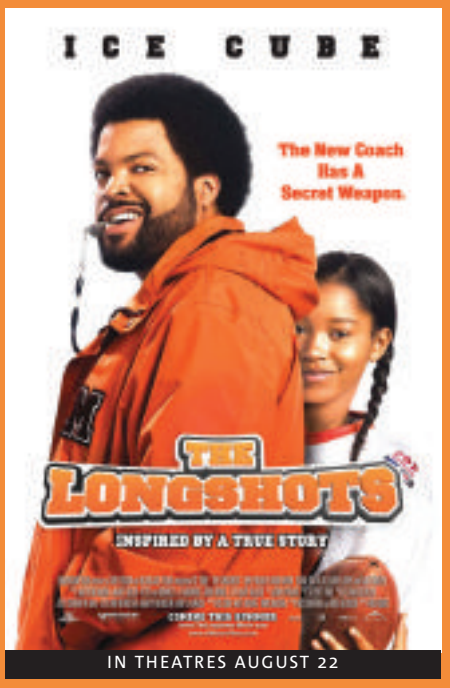
The runners up will receive 2 tickets to the screening and 2 tickets to visit the CN TOWER!



IN THEATRES AUGUST 22

- At the screening look for draw for the ULTIMATE SPORTS PACKAGE which will include 4 tickets to an upcoming Argos game and dinner at the 360 Restaurant.

CN TOWER

No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes August 14, 2008. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.

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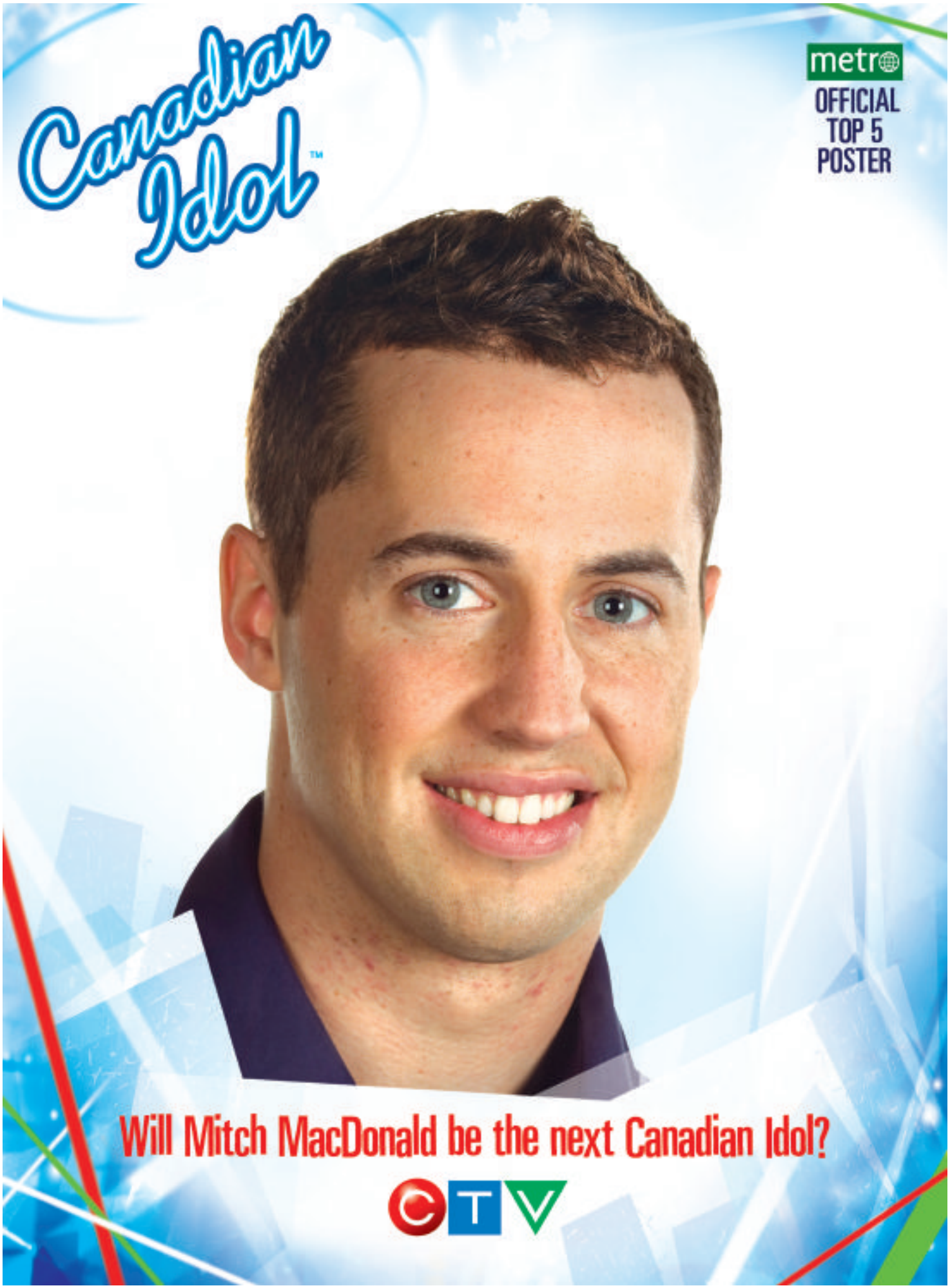
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TOP 5
POSTER
Will Mitch MacDonald be the next Canadian Idol?
CTV

Bound for Broadway

Weeds star Mary-Louise Parker already treads on dangerous territory as the pot-growing Nancy Botwin. This winter, she'll be taking on another edgy role as Hedda Gabler in a Broadway revival of Henrik Ibsen's classic play. **EW.COM**

Wheel of Fortune takes Canadian spin

GAME SHOW It's essentially the game of hangman, with a giant roulette wheel.

But the simplicity of Wheel of Fortune has brought it millions of fans and made it a ratings blockbuster for more than 25 years.

After a quarter century helming the series, hosts Pat Sajak and Vanna White bring the show to the CBC next month and mark the occasion with a Canadian-themed show set for October.

The bulk of the puzzles will have something to do with the Great White North, says the affable Sajak, who taped the episodes last week.

"It gave us a chance to sort of spend the week sort of officially welcoming CBC aboard," Sajak said. "We made a daily mention of it and did some Canadian fun facts, because, I'm sure you know, a lot of Americans are not necessarily well-versed in what goes on north of their border. We had fun with that."

The episodes will air Oct. 13-17, and feature prizes including trips to Canadian cities. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Good Voices Wanted For TV and RADIO

TRYOUTS BY PHONE for men and women with Radio/TV potential are on at Canada's NIB Broadcast Training Centre.

"We offer special Studio Courses full time or part time for people with good voices, all ages," says Mary Adams, "For News, Sports and Commercials, as Talk Hosts, Entertainment Reporters, DJs and Celebrity Interviewers." Places are limited. To try your voice -

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'70s inspire more shows

RAG AND BONE BOUTIQUE: Hollywood is the kind of place where everyone has an assistant but none of them can come up with more than one good idea.

This year it's the '70s; a generation of producers and executives who spent their formative years vegging out in front of their parents' console television set, changing channels only occasionally as the remote was still an expensive accessory, have ascended into positions of power, and are determined to make the next year's worth of shows recreate the look and feel of the Nixon/Ford presidencies.

You almost get the feeling they're praying for a gas shortage and runaway inflation just to get the mood right. Certainly Russia seems to be doing its bit to recreate the bleary-eyed plateau phase of the Cold War — after the invasion of Georgia, can SALT III talks be far behind?

Flush with the critical success of Mad Men and Breaking Bad, AMC has given the green light to a TV

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

version of Francis Ford Coppola's 1974 film The Conversation, a project that has obsessed producer Tony Krantz for years — he's tried to sell versions of the project three times before, most recently to ABC, just two years ago, with a version set in the present day.

The AMC series will retain the film's period setting, and Krantz explained to Variety that it "gives us an opportunity to look back at the 1970s through the filter of 2009 ... The issues of privacy and individuality, and issues of spying and listening, are as relevant now as they've ever been. This is the perfect vehicle to tell those stories."

By the time it gets to air, it's unlikely that ABC's fraught remake of BBC's

The TV series Mad Men has been a critical success.

Life On Mars will be set in New York in the '70s — after almost relentless changes to the producers, cast and setting, the show that makes it to the air this fall might take place on a space station. The leader of the '70s revival pack so far, though, seems to be CBS, who have two revivals of '70s series in the works.

In the San Francisco Chronicle, TV critic Tim Goodman worried that the network's new version of Streets Of San Francisco won't be able to afford to shoot anything but exteriors in the city by the bay, as "would be completely pointless and unwatchable unless it was shot here." Tell that to anyone living in Toronto or Vancouver, who've had their streets stand in for everywhere from New York in the '30s to Battlestar Galactica's alien worlds.

CBS is also reviving Hawaii 5-O, updating the show to the present day with a team of top cops headed up by Steve McGarrett's son, Chris. Executive producer Ed Bernero told the Hollywood Reporter that he's trying to keep as much of the original show as possible, and fully intends to preserve the catchy theme song in some form as well as the phrase "Book'em, Dano." The executives behind this egregious trend would be having second thoughts about this if they knew that the terrible endgame involves a new version of Man From Atlantis.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
8/13/08 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	The Life of Birds		The Corporation		The Whistleblowers		Human Edge		Corporation
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (HDTV PA)		NCIS "Grace Period"		Crime Stories		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	(6) XXIX Summer Olympics (HDTV) (Live)								
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Make Me a Supermodel		Toronto Kickoff NFL Concert		Entourage	Entourage	News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	TMZ (N)	Jeopardy!	Law & Order		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY "DOA for a Day"		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Greatest American Dog		Janice Dickinson Modeling		True Hollywood Story (N)		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama	Jardins (SC)	Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)		*Oublier Cheyenne* (2005, Drame sentimental)			Les Gens de...	Tournants
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Aliens-America	Aliens-America	Tragically Hip: That Night in Toronto				Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Greatest American Dog		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY "DOA for a Day"		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	Olympic Zone	XXIX Summer Olympics (HDTV) (Live)						
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Wife Swap		Supernanny		Primetime: Crime		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Wheel-Fortune	Degrassi: Next	Wife Swap		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Famous Monster		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		Sarah Connor Chronicles		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	Planet Tales (DVS)		Nova scienceNOW		A Brief History of Disbelief		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dr. Phil		News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Beijing Today	The Hour (N)		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		CNN Election Center		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Asia Squawk Box		On the Money		Fast Money (Live)		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Detroit Tigers. From Comerica Park in Detroit.						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	(6:30) XXIX Summer Olympics (HDTV) (Live)								SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Exploration	Videos	Ed's Up	Odyssey	The Rig	Dirtbusters (N)	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time (N)	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	ReBoot "Daemon Rising" Daemon's infection.				Falcon Beach "Vigil"		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Tom & Jerry	Tom and Jerry	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	*Appleseed* ★★ (2004, Fantasy)		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	Zack & Cody	Naturally Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Three Fat Brides		Coleen's Real Women (N)		Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	So You Think You Can Dance The final four perform.				So You Think You Can Dance Winner revealed.				Born to Be
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Criss Angel
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	L'Avvocato Porta				The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Popaganda		Back In	Tip of Tongue	Tip of Tongue	Don't Forget the Lyrics!		Celeb. Rehab
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT30 "Dauphin 2008"		Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Tara Diaries
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis "Sleepers"		Da Vinci's Inquest		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Literature Alive	Arts & Minds	Wingfield	Camera	Mad Men		Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted		Work Out		Inside Hollywood (N)		X-Weighted
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Ravenous"		Cities of the Underworld		Cities of the Underworld		NCIS "Ravenous"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Property Shop	Big City Broker	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Flipping Out "Looks Like New"		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*G.I. Jane* ★★★ (1997, Drama) Demi Moore, Viggo Mortensen.					Seinfeld	Friends
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Hell Date	Access	Baldwin Hills	*New Jack City* ★★★ (1991, Crime Drama), Ice-T				Hell Date
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Voyager		Smallville "Veritas"		Supernatural		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Next	Cribs	Canada's Next Top Model		Buzzin	Run's House	Run's House	Buzzin	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	TV Made, Do It	ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Road Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		The Next Food Network Star		Challenge
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Chambers	No Place Like	Jeeves and Wooster		Swedenborg: Mystical Cowboy		Call It Karma
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	Madonna	Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		The Ellen DeGeneres Show		Madonna
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	The Wiggles	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Marché	Vidéos	Rumeurs - Jean-Michel Anctil		La Grande Évasion (HDTV)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Blessures fat.*
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct	400 fois Qué	Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Chine	Le Téléjournal	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing		Paul Merton in China		Casanova's Love Letters		Traders		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	*Silk* ★ (2007, Drama) Keira Knightley, Michael Pitt.				*Borat: Cultural Learnings of America*			(10:45) *Death at a Funeral*	
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:15) *Absolon* ★ (2003, Science Fiction)				*The Astronaut's Wife* ★★ (1999, Science Fiction)				*Canvas*

critics' corner

Appleseed
In this visually stunning anime, mercenary Deunan Knute gets caught up in defending the innocent from shadowy — and possibly nonhuman — enforcers. Kidnapped for her fighting skills by a secret organization, Knute is recruited to save society. But will she save it for the humans — or from them? 10 PM on TEL

Wife Swap
Generally there's one mom to root for on this show, but this episode may leave you disliking them both. Teresa's world revolves around her son's wrestling; she even keeps a lock on the refrigerator so he won't eat himself out of his weight class. She swaps homes with Donna, who owns a coffee shop and encourages her kids to express themselves artistically but has little time to get involved in their lives. It gets ... interesting. 8 PM on ABC ACH-B

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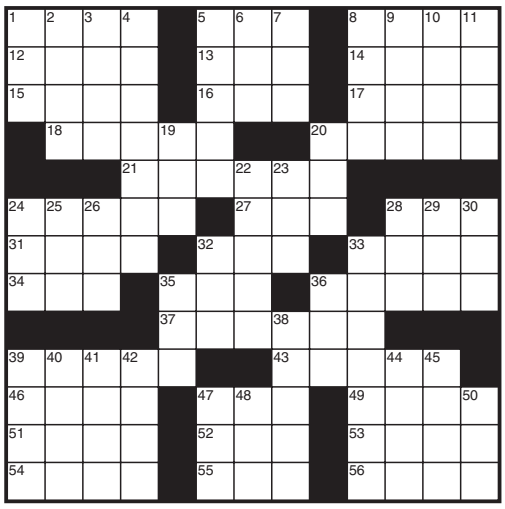
Rowland racks up party bill

Kelly Rowland, right, spent almost $400,000 US on a night out. The former Destiny's Child singer racked up the bar bill on guests that included U2 front man Bono in St. Tropez, France, last weekend, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take Five



Crossword down

1 — Vegas
2 Bratty kids
3 Castle defense
4 Largest bird
5 Entice
6 Hagen of "The Other"
7 Dracula, at times
8 Touchdown
9 Sudden impulse
10 Woodland god
11 Tiny insect
19 Collected sayings
20 Monsieur's summer
22 Bail out
23 Festive quaff
24 Debate side
25 Rough shelter
26 I, to Wolfgang
28 Eur. airline
29 Left Bank pal
30 Pit stop purchase
32 Uncles and nephews
33 Payment plan
35 Train alternative
36 Work by Keats
38 Fill with
39 Goner's fate
40 Lacking elegance
41 Cow-headed goddess
42 Sight from Messina
44 Late-night host
45 Pearl starter
47 Herbal infusion
48 Irving or Grant
50 Green parrot

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Crossword across

1 Prom rental
5 Margarine container
8 Back talk
12 Maj. — Hoople
13 Flight board info
14 Ph.D. exam
15 Tiff
16 Bathroom item
17 Feverish chill
18 Sandal part
20 "Maria —"
21 Resolute
24 Girl from Baja
27 Diner coffee
28 Mattress problem
31 Ow!
32 Barrel
33 Prayer-wheel turner
34 Last degree
35 Razor brand
36 Camel's pit stop
37 Topsy-turvy
39 Evaporates
43 Feasts
46 Depose
47 File label
49 Spineless
51 Thor's father
52 Outback bird
53 Prince Charles' sister
54 Southwest feature
55 Response on deck
56 Jedi master

previous day's answer

B	A	R	B	■	G	R	A	F	■	S	H	H
U	R	A	L	■	B	A	B	A	■	Q	U	I
T	E	P	E	E	■	M	U	R	M	U	R	S
■	■	T	S	H	I	R	T	■	E	A	T	S
T	A	O	S	■	L	O	■	S	A	T	■	■
E	R	R	■	H	I	D	D	E	N	■	R	A
S	I	S	■	I	A	■	A	C	■	B	I	G
T	D	■	I	N	D	E	N	T	■	R	C	A
■	■	C	O	T	■	S	T	■	S	O	A	R
B	O	U	T	■	A	C	E	T	I	C	■	■
E	M	B	A	R	G	O	■	E	X	A	C	T
T	E	E	■	O	U	R	S	■	E	D	N	A
E	N	D	■	C	A	T	O	■	S	E	N	D

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
An old friend is on the way. Develop a more philosophical attitude. Someone's focus is on the prevention of problems.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Misery is the hot topic of a conversation. A falsehood touches on the truth. New beginnings arise in a partnership issue.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A fascinating event will take place. Make a fresh start to be successful. A special discount encourages a great purchase.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Kindness can melt a frozen heart. Be grateful to an unexpected helper. A vivid fantasy puts a romance on the rocks.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Someone's attitude calls for a fast adjustment. A friendly female feels abandoned. Spend time with a happy informant.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
An emotional overload provokes an outburst. Be available if somebody needs to talk. A bossy person revises a business plan.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Take a risk and be surprised. A mediocre boss tries your patience. A messenger finally brings glad tidings.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24- NOV 22
Help someone who has a bad attitude. A grumpy person will make vexing comments. You'll win by problem-solving at home.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23- DEC 21
You'll emerge unscathed by a stressful situation. Temper tantrums interfere with getting work done. Don't get caught being fiendish.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Someone has a joyful story to share. An escape from an event leads to a snit-fit. Step lightly around a dull debate.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
A man will refuse to be delayed. You'll have some free time. You can restore the flow of your energy and zest.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MAR 20
Do a good deed: the gratitude will be awesome. You'll have to live without a lost document. You'll get an idea that can make a fortune.

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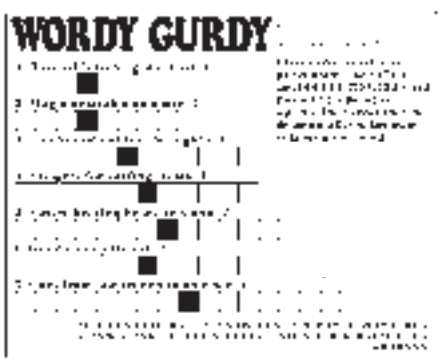

Sudoku

	5	9				6		
			5	8				3
2					9			5
		4	1		2		8	
	6			3			9	
	1		4		6	2		
8			2					9
3				4	7			
		5				7	6	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

9	3	2	1	6	7	8	5
8	5	7	9	4	3	2	6
4	6	1	2	8	5	3	9
6	8	3	5	7	2	1	4
7	9	4	6	1	8	5	2
1	2	5	4	3	9	7	8
3	1	9	8	5	6	4	7
2	4	8	7	9	1	6	3

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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Toronto weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
60%				
Thunder-showers. 22°	Variable. 15°	Partly cloudy. 22°/ 15°	Partly cloudy. 23°/ 14°	Partly cloudy. 25°/ 18°

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Temperature Normals
High: 26.7°
Low: 14.5°

Records
High: 35.6°/1947
Low: 6.7°/1941

Sunrise: 6:21 a.m.
Sunset: 8:24 p.m.
Moonset: 2:37 a.m.
Moonrise: 6:51 p.m.

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Stanley may be singing lullabies
Paul Stanley, 56, the legendary co-founder and front man for KISS, and his wife, Erin, are expecting their second child together. Erin, 36, an attorney, is due this winter. PEOPLE.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Fame can hurt dating, Carrie says

RELATIONSHIPS Although former American Idol sensation Carrie Underwood has become one of country music's biggest stars, fame has its downside — especially when it comes to dating, People.com reports the singer as saying.

"You never really know why somebody wants to be around you, or if they do genuinely like you," Underwood, 25, tells Allure magazine in the September issue. "I wish everyone had a label on their forehead so you could automatically tell their intentions. Sometimes you just wish that no one wanted anything from you."

Underwood recalls a time soon after her success on Idol when a guy who'd ignored her in college — clearly enamoured by her newfound success — called saying that "he wanted to explain."

Fame hasn't helped create lasting relationships for her either. Earlier this year, Underwood split from Gossip Girl's Chace Crawford via text-messages. "We didn't have a fight. No one cheated," she clarifies. "It plain didn't work."

As for Dallas Cowboys QB Tony Romo, who now is dating Jessica Simpson, Underwood says she still hears from him sometimes — but doesn't always pick up the phone.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Alanis reflects on aging

PEOPLE The effects of old age won't be a concern for Alanis Morissette, People.com reports.

Don't count on seeing the singer, who says she "notices new things" about her body every month, searching for a fountain of youth. Instead Morissette plans to embrace her body's transformation.

"I'm fascinated by aging and how a woman's body changes," Morissette, 34, tells Women's Health's September issue. "I don't want to spend the next 50 years of my life trying to hide those changes. There's something very relaxing about watching it unfold instead of fighting it the whole way."

While she watches her body evolve, Morissette has stayed physically fit by adding triathlete to her resumé.

"It was amazing to use my body as an instrument rather than as an ornament," Morissette says of the swim-run-bike competition.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Madonna eyes new adoption?

PEOPLE Madonna is reportedly looking to adopt a second child from Malawi, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pop star wants to give a home to a two-year-old girl, Mercy James, whose mother died in childbirth, but the family of the child, who lives in an orphanage, have said they are "not interested" in the proposition.

Madonna's adoption of Malawian David Banda was finalized earlier this year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

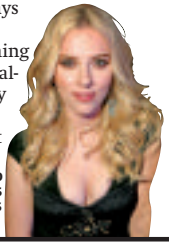
I'm not Woody's muse: Scarlett

MOVIES Scarlett Johansson denies she has become director Woody Allen's latest muse, imdb.com reports.

Allen admits the actress is the inspiration for his films. But Johansson insists they only work together to "have fun."

"I'm not his muse," she says. "Every single junket that we've done so far (for Vicky Cristina Barcelona), we always get the muse thing and we always say no, it's not that way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Song won't name Kylie

MUSIC Kylie Minogue is reportedly set to release a cover of Barry Manilow's hit Copacabana, female-first.co.uk reports.

The singer, however, is said to have angered the lyricist Bruce Sussman by asking for the woman's name in the song to be changed from Lola to Kylie.

Minogue is said to have wanted the lyric, "Her name was Lola, she was a showgirl" to be changed, but Sussman refused.

"Bruce was furious," a source told gossip website MSNBC. "He told Kylie, 'No way. Her name's Lola. Not Lola Minogue, not Kylie.' "

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Butting out freed Julianne

PEOPLE Actress Julianne Moore credits her decision to quit smoking for an emotional awakening, imdb.com reports.

Moore quit the habit 15 years ago. "I began to see the most clearly," she tells Parade magazine. "I had been so unhappy, and I realized that I had just been ... literally stuffing it back with those cigarettes in my mouth."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

Paul Stanley and his wife are having a baby. This is pure demographics. The original KISS ARMY are all about 50 now. New recruits must be spawned! To the incubators! And how will Paul know the child is really his? When he sees that telltale black star over its right eye.

It's difficult to imagine why **Kylie Minogue** wants the lyrics of her cover version of Copacabana to be changed so that Lola becomes Kylie, given that the Lola in the song ends up as a drunken, insane, aged and decrepit figure. Oh, wait, I guess it does make sense.

Carrie Underwood says she wishes everyone had a label on their forehead so she could automatically tell their intentions. Interesting. I do appreciate her candidness, though, because I like to know what plans our celebrity class has in store for us. Here's what I'd like my label to say: "I do not intend to purchase, or listen to, any Carrie Underwood music for as long as I live."

Scarlett Johansson is correct to deny she's **Woody Allen**'s latest muse. She knows it doesn't work that way. First, Woody adopts you, then you become his muse, then he marries you. Then everybody shudders and throws up.

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LET'S GO TO THE EX
AUG 15 - SEPT 1

Panettiere's dad out on bail
Heroes star Hayden Panettiere's father Alan has been released on $50,000 US bail after being arrested for allegedly assaulting his wife in West Hollywood, Calif., on Monday. IMDB.COM

Celebrity Buzz

Producer sues Vanessa over profits

PEOPLE Producer Johnny Vieira is suing High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens, People.com reports.

In court papers filed earlier this week in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Vieira is demanding more than $5 million US and punitive damages from the Disney star.

Vieira claims he and Hudgens, now 19, worked together to launch her career — and that they agreed to "share equally" in the profits. (Because the actress was a minor at the time, Vieira contends that a court approved the 2005 agreement.)

But after High School Musical became a hit, he says she dumped him – and that she still owes him $2 million – which the documents for the suit state Vieira discovered "after an expensive audit."

There has been no comment from Hudgens' camp.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Movie critics irritate Adam

MOVIES Adam Sandler has blamed the media for influencing his box office ratings, because they never write good things about him, imdb.com reports.

The funnyman ignores critics who deliberately write bad reviews of his films but he is angry when their opinions influence the public.

"You know what, I don't even believe half the things they say anymore — they've been writing bad stuff about me for a long time," he says. "I remember one time this lady came up to me and said 'I'm not gonna see your movie but my friend said it was good.' And I was like 'OK, why can't you see it again?' and she said, 'Oh I read that it wasn't very good' and I said, 'What about your friend' and she was like, 'Yeah she's not that smart.' "

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Scarce Gwyneth annoys guests

PEOPLE Guests who paid up to $2,500 US to attend a benefit in the Hamptons, N.Y., were not happy with actress Gwyneth Paltrow Saturday night, the New York Daily News reports.

Paltrow reportedly spent most of the time at the Amaryllis Farm Equine Rescue Organization party off-limits inside photographer Steven Klein's house.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Eva admits crush on Liam

MUSIC Actress Eva Mendes has admitted to a massive crush on Oasis front man Liam Gallagher, imdb.com reports.

The Hitch star insists she became a big fan of the rock band in the 1990s, before shooting to fame herself.

And Mendes' love for the group, and Gallagher in particular, still affects her to the present day.

"Before I was an actress, when Oasis were really hot in America, I went to L.A. to see them play," she says. "I had a crush on Liam Gallagher. I got backstage and met him. But I was so in awe of him, I couldn't say anything. He just looked at me as if I was dumb. Just thinking about it now makes me break out in a cold sweat."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Record boss fetes Mariah

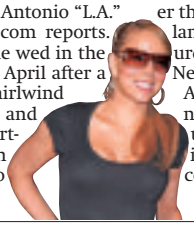
PEOPLE Mariah Carey and new husband Nick Cannon reportedly celebrated their nuptials at a star-studded post-wedding party at the weekend, thanks to her record boss Antonio "L.A." Reid, imdb.com reports.

The couple wed in the Bahamas in April after a six-week whirlwind romance, and have reportedly been desperate to celebrate their union with a lavish ceremony.

Carey's post-wedding fantasy was finally realized after Def Jam Records chairman Reid put together the party at his Long Island, N.Y., home on Saturday, according to the New York Post.

A source tells the newspaper Reid "did it up" for the star, hiring a massive team to co-ordinate the event.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity brief

Sister fakes not knowing Beyoncé

PEOPLE Solange Knowles has revealed that she often pretends that she is not related to her sister, singer/actress Beyoncé, Ananova.com reports.

"Sometimes I say she's not my sister," Solange, also a singer, told the Daily Star.

"Other times I say I've stuffed her in my suitcase and sent it to Dubai. I have to have fun with it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

I've kissed just three guys: Blake

PEOPLE Blake Lively says her romantic life isn't nearly as scandalous as her onscreen persona, Serena van der Woodsen, on Gossip Girl, People.com reports.

"There wasn't a period in my life like Serena went through, where I was doing drugs and having sex with my best friend's boyfriend," Lively, 20, said. "I've kissed just three people in my life."

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